

Youth workers get more than they bargained for

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Barring any unforeseen problems, Acton youth should have a place to hang out by the end of October when a federal government Youth Services Canada (YSC) contract ends.

The goal of the 10 local youths hired under the \$150,000 YSC project is to assess existing youth centres and then develop and open a combination drop-in and youth centre in Acton. Two months into the project it looks promising, although the search for an affordable permanent location has been unsuccessful so far.

"The group is currently gathering youth needs assessments that have already been done and then they will prioritize that list," explained YSC co-ordinator Kimberly Rogers, an employee of Halton Hills Community Support and Information. At the end of the contract the YSC workers must give the federal government a report indicating what youth services are needed in Halton Hills.

"Our agency will utilize that report to prioritize what kind of programs we should be offering local youth," Rogers said, adding the federal grant has a lot of spin-off benefits.

"We'll have run the concession booth at Prospect Park for a year and we hope to win the Town contract every year so we'll have an on-going retail business to provide funding for youth initiatives. The idea is to give these youths hands-on experiential learning in the employ-



YOUTHFUL VENTURE: Youth Services Canada workers Jesse Deforest, left, and Kristen Johnson spruce up the concession booth at Prospect Park for a weekend ball tournament.

ment world," Rogers said.

And that's exactly what they are getting according to YSC employee Kristy Allen, 18, who had been unemployed for almost a year.

"We've done so much. I had no idea that I'd learn how to do resumes, how to set up a business to run the concession stand, first aid and a lot of people skills training. It's been great," Allen said on Saturday as she manned the concession booth.

"I've met a lot of really great people and I'll have a lot of new skills on my resume when this ends in October."

Until the Youth Centre is up and running, the group is operating out of a store at 45 Mill St. E. The YSC group has an ambitious program of special events planned for the summer including a youth volleyball night mid-month. So far, the group has held floor hockey and lacrosse games at Acton High.



The next meeting of the Acton Women's Association will be held on Tuesday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Acton Band Hall, 85 Wallace St.

At this meeting we will create a Pocket Wall Heart, which is a heart shaped basket with roses and Spanish moss, that can decorate a wall or door. We would appreciate if participants would bring along a glue gun and glue sticks if available. The cost for this craft is \$12 and we would ask that participants pre-pay. You can register for the craft class by dropping off your money to Halton Hills Community Support and Information at 19 Willow Street North, Acton.

The goal of the Acton Women's Association is to give women an opportunity to meet other women in the community. Women of all ages are welcome to attend and there is no membership fee. For information call Cathy at 853-2210.

New police auxiliaries

On Monday, May 31, at 7 p.m. the Halton Regional Police Service swore in the latest class of Auxiliary Officers. The 14 men and women who have undergone an extensive in-house training program will join other Auxiliary Officer already aboard.

These 14 new recruits, who will volunteer their time, come from various walks of life and have made a commitment to the Police Service and their community by becoming involved in this program.

In addition to the swearing-in there will be recognition of long serving auxiliary members, promotions and the retirement of a 35-year auxiliary veteran.



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