


Need artists' proposals for Acton murals

Heritage Halton Hills in partnership with the Acton BIA, and Town of Halton Hills will create two murals depicting Acton's history. The first will grace the outside wall of a downtown building facing the parkette at Mill and Main Streets and will tell the story of Acton's industrial, commercial and architectural history and should celebrate the unique


history of the tanning industry in Acton. The second mural will be placed inside the Acton Arena and Community Centre and will highlight the people and events in Acton's Cultural and Recreation history. The unveiling of the murals is scheduled for July 1. Professional artists are invited to submit proposals for one or both of the murals. De-

tails on the competition are available at the Civic Centre and Acton Library. The deadline for entries is February 15. For more information please call Joy Thompson 905-873-2601, ext. 2263 or email joyt@town.halton-hills.on.ca. This project has been made possible through the generosity of local service clubs,

businesses and the Millennium Bureau of Canada. The Acton Heritage Mural Committee is still accepting donations to support this project. Please make cheques payable to the Heritage Foundation of Halton Hills c/o D. Payne, R.R. #4, Halton Hills (Acton), L7J 2M1.

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What's Inside



A \$100,000 fire in Eden Mills believed to have started in a woodpile ravaged a home on the Eramosa-Milton Town Line. See Page 3.



Acton Veterinary Clinic is looking for the owner of this dog they've dubbed "Chester," hurt by a car. See Page 2.



Acton's House League Atom Select team won five straight games to win the Chedoke Posse Christmas Tournament in Hamilton. See Page 9.

Acton councillors look ahead in an interview with Frances Niblock. See Page 7.

Restructuring plans concern here

Local politicians say Acton the loser

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner



TOURNEY CHAMPS: The Acton Major Novice Tanners are host champions of the rep. league's annual Christmas hockey tournament in Acton. The team includes, front, left to right: Evan Lavallee, Matthew Bentley, Stephen Bennett, Curtis Marcoux, Bryan Curry, Tyler McNiven and Thomas Harding. Middle: Dustin Ballentine, Kevin Vickery, Sean Terry, Michael McKeon, David Gardener and Alex Brake. Back: Trevor Gardener (coach), Bill Curry (trainer) and Wade Vickery (assistant coach). - Submitted photo

Major Novices win own tourney

An overtime goal from Stephen Bennett gave the Acton Major Novice Tanners a 3-2 win for the championship crown at the rep. hockey league's annual Christmas tournament in Acton last Tuesday. Bennett, named game MVP, scored eight goals in three games, including the winner in each game, and had three assists. "I did expect them to win - I was hoping anyway," said proud coach Bill Curry after the tournament. "We had dominant forwards, our goal tending was great and Thomas Harding had a great tournament and

kept us in the game when it was close. It was nice to be the bride, and not the bridesmaid," Curry said, adding Acton had been tourney runner-ups for two years in a row. In the final with Erin/Hillsburgh, Acton was behind by a goal with three minutes on the clock when Bennett tied it at 2-2. David Gardener found Bennett open at the net and he scored for the win and the championship. Gardener hit the ice hot in that game, scoring just 16 seconds in on a pass from Bennett. Thomas Harding was sharp in goal in the final. Acton slammed Chedoke

6-1 in game two, thanks to hat tricks and double assists from both Gardiner and Bennett and stellar net minding by Evan Lavallee, who, after winning the goalie skills competition before the game, held on to a shutout until 5:13 of the third period. Kevin Vickery had a pair of assists and Michael McKeon set up one goal. Acton edged Wainfleet 4-3 with a hat trick from Bennett and a single from Gardiner, who helped on one of Bennett's markers. McKeon had two helpers and Sean Terry and Vickery had single assists.

While Acton politicians don't want to be pushed into restructuring, they know change is coming and one is suggesting talks about an alliance with Milton.

At the January Halton Council meeting there will be a Notice of Motion from Burlington's mayor and an Oakville councillor for Halton to begin a study and public consultation process on amalgamation and restructuring before the province does it to them. Acton Councillor Norm Elliott resents what he calls provincial interference and predicts Halton will be a "city state with career politicians."

Elliott said Acton "pretty much accepted" regional government in 1973, taking what the province handed out. "Those people that are still bitching about regional government 25 years later, maybe they should start thinking about what they're doing now when the government is talking about even larger changes to the political system in Ontario," Elliott said as he accused the public of being apathetic about what the Tory government "has been allowed to get away with as far as gutting our democratic system in Ontario."

"The grassroots input from local people at local levels is going to be eradicated and it will turn the system into city states with career politicians running the system," Elliott predicted.

A suggestion from the Oakville councillor that Acton could become part of Guelph is "ludicrous" Elliott said, asking why Acton would

want to align with a region that has no money.

Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette Rick Bonnette said the restructuring issue is wide reaching and he's "nervous" after hearing comments from some south Halton politicians.

"One said we were getting caved up pretty good and Georgetown can go to Brampton and Acton can go to Guelph or we could have two cities in Halton. Don't the people of Ward 2 have any say?" Bonnette asked.

"The province will want Halton to do something and it may even turn out to be the City of Halton and there will be a lot of debate before we get to that," Bonnette said, adding the Region has been the model of effective government.

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville agrees that the biggest issue facing municipal politicians this year is restructuring and asks what's wrong with the "whiners in Burlington."

"Some of the politicians in the south want our industrial area at the 401, but they don't want the rest of us. I don't think so," Somerville said.

"If there's going to be restructuring in the Region, I think realistically the smartest thing for us to do is to talk to Milton about the City of North Halton, because a city of Halton would kill us when it came to representation."

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