



MIDGET MIGHT: The Acton I midget hardball team captured the Central Ontario Baseball Association playoff championship with a 6-0 drubbing of Campbellville recently. The team includes, from left: Joe Stewart, Steve Spiers, Dave Albano, Tim Kirk and Darren Banks. Back: Mike Albano (assistant coach), Wayne Hopkins, Mike Pridding, Ryan Turpin, Graham Rhynold, Kory Killingbeck, Nick Mastro and Karl Killingbeck (coach).

Next move up to Acton developers

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

It will take big bucks – up front – from co-operative Acton developers and political will at Halton Council to put a shovel in the ground for new housing in Acton.

At a meeting on Tuesday, the six main Acton developers will respond to the Region's proposed financing plan for their share of \$6.2 in water and sewer system upgrades necessary for Acton to grow to 10,000 people.

"If everyone plays by the rules and you know, greed doesn't overcome logic, then we can make things happen," Andrew Hope, Halton's director of current planning said on Friday, adding he's "cautiously optimistic" about the outcome of the meeting. The major Acton developer, Fred Dawkins, said on Monday that he intends to sign the agreement, and hopes other developers will as well. Dawkins disputes Hope's math showing the developers will pay approximately 25 per cent - \$1.5 million - as their share. He said at \$4,000 per unit with approximately 700 units, the developer's share will be closer to \$3-million.

Hope said the developers know their co-operation, with each other and the Region, is needed to "send a favourable message" to Regional Council that the Acton developers are serious about getting on with their projects.

He said the Region has gone to "significant lengths" to accommodate the Acton developers because the proposed development is need in the community, and has played a stronger coordinating role because of the "disparate interests" of the Acton developers whose every-man-for-himself attitude in the past became "self-defeating."

The draft agreement requires the Acton developers to pay to play – they must

post irrevocable letters of credit to pay, up front, for the Regional water and waste water development charges for their properties.

The money would be earmarked for improvements to the sewage treatment plant in Acton and adding capacity to the Prospect Park well, and the letters of credit would be cashed only if Halton politicians okay matching funds.

Hope said before development can occur they need favourable results from a study of the water situation in Acton and the capacity of the Prospect Park well.

"There's a very close relationship between Black Creek, its assimilative capacity, Fairy Lake and the Prospect Park well, so the Acton

water analysis study will explore that relationship and hopefully confirm everything is in order for the planned improvements," Hope said. That report is expected early next year.

If the Acton developers are on board following Tuesday's meeting, Halton wants to execute the agreements and receive the letters of credit by mid-October. A decision from Halton Council for the water and sewage improvements would need to follow.

"If all things go well, we'd look at getting construction underway in 2001, such that the development of the residential units in Acton could take place, beginning 2002, say - the first or second quarter," Hope said.

Gilwell Reunion attracts 2,100

Organizers of the 49th annual Gilwell Reunion at Blue Springs Scout Reserve expected 2,100 Scouters to attend the three-day event.

While that may seem like a good-sized crowd, Brian Moore, program director for the Ontario Council of Scouts Canada, says attendance has dropped.

"One year we had 3,800 Scouters show up," Moore recalled. "That was a while ago. But it's still a big deal for the people who come."

Gilwell was the land in England given to Scout founder Lord Baden Powell for use as a place to train the leaders for his new organization. Since Ontario leaders can't be trained at the original Gilwell, Blue Springs was set up to be its Canadian equivalent.

The very first training centre was near Brantford in 1929 but since the land was only loaned to Scouts Canada it was eventually lost. Blue Springs was the first training site the Scouts actually owned and for that reason it has become the home of their annual reunion.

All Scout leaders attend assorted courses held at Blue Springs and become Gilwell alumni, Moore said. For that reason Blue Springs becomes a special, often sentimental place to them.

The annual reunion is organized by representatives of several districts who are elected to the committee during the previous year's reunion. Seeing some of these alumni sporting costumes - Alice, Toto and the Wicked Witch, for instance - Moore explained they were supporting one of their own to be on the 50th reunion committee.

In addition to the general hijinks, some other important

things happen, like exchanging ideas and participating in various programs which these alumni can take home for use with the troupes they lead.

Some of the Districts bring along American representatives to the reunion, Moore said. Since Scouts Canada and Boy Scouts of America conduct similar programs, exchanges happen at many Scout events.

While attendance was lower than in former times, Blue Springs reunion is still considered to be one of the largest - if not the largest - in North America.

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