

TOWN DIGEST



New BIA coordinator Josey Murray

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BYMAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

Acton BIA has hired a new coordinator. Former Acton resident Josey Murray, assumed her position Monday.

Formerly an executive secretary with Telemedia Radio in Terrace, B.C., Murray returned to Acton in September and is living with her mother.

Murray originally came to Acton with her family when Beardmore hired her father after the tannery closed in Huntsville. She attended

Robert Little and Acton High schools and came back for the big high school reunion in June.

Murray says she was still hunting for a job when the BIA position became available and it appealed to her since she wants to "reconnect and get involved with the community."

Murray says she has lots of ideas and will spend a portion of each day in the BIA office at the old Hide House, although she hasn't actually worked out a schedule yet.

Murray is taking over from Janis Fread who resigned October 1. She was the Acton BIA coordinator for six years.

Acton pro shop

The pro shop at the Acton arena remains closed this ice season. No one bid on a public tender to run the facility, and the widow of the previous operator is trying to sell the skate sharpening equipment and stock.

Paul Stover, the Town's manager of facilities, said there's no money in the recreation and park budget to run the shop and the Town might combine the Acton and Georgetown pro shop tenders next year.

"It may have to be with the, you know, an all-in-one tender with the Alcott arena one, Stover said, adding the Town has an automatic skate sharpening machine at the Acton arena and sells laces and tape at the snack booth.

The Town built the pro shop after the new arena had been open for a year. The monthly rent is approximately \$75.

House approved

With construction of 60 single family homes underway in phase I of the Acto-2 housing subdivision, Town Council recently told the Ontario Municipal Board it supports a draft plan of subdivision for phase II, an additional 50 single-family-homes, west of Churchill Road, north of McDonald Boulevard.

Halton planners want to make sure the phase II development doesn't harm a pro-

vincially significant wetland area located to the west of the proposed subdivision so the applicant will have to submit an environmental impact study before final approval is considered.

Ambulance location

The exact location for the new ambulance station in Acton remains a secret - the deal is expected to close within weeks - but Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette said it's "very close" to the existing Churchill Road fire station.

"The land has potential for a partnership with the police for a police station - way down the road - the land is big enough to have two bays, if it's ever needed," Bonnette said, adding they have a conditional offer on the property.

Overcrowding and mould forced the ambulance service out of its former home at the rear of the former Becker's store and the ambulance service is currently operating out of space at the fire station.

Deaf golf range approved

Plans for a day use/educational facility and golf driving range at the north west corner of Highway 25 and Campbellville Road have been approved by Halton Council - despite objections from planning staff to the proposal because of the loss of 20 acres of agricultural land.

Georgetown Cancer Society...

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seeking space for their new office and more volunteers.

The new organization's mandate is to be a "community-based organization of volunteers to provide support and hope to cancer patients, families and friends."

A meeting in Georgetown last week drew a large number of patients, volunteers and Cancer Society members to hear options resulting from an earlier meeting announcing the closing of the local cancer society branch's Georgetown office. Its staff and services are to be amalgamated with the Oakville office.

Penrice told the meeting efforts to reverse the office closing decision made by those at Cancer's Toronto office failed and local branch executive members resigned October 5. Cancer's head office representatives have also

announced that next year they would withdraw "all patient services funding except for driving costs."

The executive feels if they are expected to find the funding and arrange for all the services they offer locally, they might as well start their own cancer office, she says.

Penrice says volunteers will be needed for a wide range of jobs over the coming months since the new organization is starting with nothing. Donations are also needed and receipts will be issued as soon as the charitable number is received.

Those attending the meeting believe in their objectives however, since they received \$970 in donations that night and a further \$430 the next day. People are also pledging them their \$200 provincial tax rebate, she says.

What does underserviced mean?

What happens now that Halton Hills has been officially designated as an underserviced area without an adequate number of general/family doctors?

That's the question Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette wants answered after learning the Town hasn't received any official notice of the designation which allows Halton Hills to be part of the underserviced

area program to help communities get and keep doctors.

"Acton is really going towards a deadline because in another two years we're going to down to one doctor as the other two doctors are close to retirement age and it's a very critical path..." Bonnette said.

Halton Hills will be included on a list of communities supplied to new doctors

and doctors coming to check out Halton Hills can be reimbursed for their travel expenses under the plan. After a one-year unsuccessful search for a doctor, communities with underserviced designations can apply for grants and Town official can travel to medical schools to pitch their community to graduating doctors.

"I think we have to find out

a lot more information - it's very vague. You know on the surface it's very good news, but when you get into it's a very vague message from the province," Bonnette said.

Town staff said they expect a letter from the province within the month saying how many family physicians Halton Hills is short, and identifying what programs the Town qualifies for.

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