

# What's Inside



Acton volunteers were honoured recently at a ceremony in Burlington. See photos on Page 4.



Acton's 4th Annual Antique Show and Sale is on May 11, 12 & 13. See details on pages 8 & 9.



Rockwood Lions are fundraising for Habitat for Humanity to be built in their community. See the Rockwood Miller on Page 15.

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# THE NEW Tanner

Your Hometown Newspaper

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# Rail crossing safety upgrades discussed



**VOLUNTEES HONOURED:** Almost one-third of the 218 Halton volunteers who received Ontario Volunteer Service Awards last week at a ceremony in Burlington were from Acton – a community of people who quietly do what needs to be done, without a lot of fanfare. Included in the Acton group were six individuals who received 50-year awards from Cam Jackson, the Honourable Minister of Citizenship. – Submitted photo

## Acton crossing improvements fast-tracked by politics

Just three days after safety gates were installed at the deadly Fourth Line rail crossing outside Acton, Halton MP Julian Reed said all crossings in the Region could be eligible for improvements.

In Acton for a photo opportunity on Friday, Reed said he'd had nothing in writing, but had "verbal communication" from Transport Canada that all of Halton qualifies for upgraded rail crossing protection.

Asked why it took a second accident and the deaths of three Acton teens last year to get politicians to fast-track the Fourth Line improvements, Reed shook his head and said, "It's absolutely tragic because the study that had been done the year prior, the (Canadian Transportation) Safety Board said there wasn't enough traffic to warrant it, and there had been one death then of the gravel truck driver," Reed said.

Reed said municipalities would have to apply to Ottawa for crossing upgrades under the same funding formula for the Fourth Line project – 80 per cent from Ottawa, 12.5 per cent from the Town and 8.5 per cent from the railway. At the Fourth Line crossing, the \$200,000 upgrade project includes two safety gates that automatically drop down across the roadway when a motion sensor detects a train within 3,000 feet of the crossing.

The sensor determines how fast the train is moving and triggers the lights, bells and arm drops when the train is 25 seconds from the crossing. Along with the gate arms,

*Continued on Page 2.*

## Corporate sponsorship welcomed by local politicians

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

Corporate branding in Halton Hills – naming public facilities after companies or individuals who make significant financial donations – saves taxpayers money, but still rankles a few councillors who feel some things shouldn't be for sale.

In a close, unrecorded vote last Tuesday night, Council proclaimed the Alcott Arena in Georgetown as the Mold-Masters Sportsplex, in recognition of a very generous donation from Mold-Masters Ltd. owners, Mr. and Mrs. Jobst Gellert, long-time residents of Halton Hills.

Acton Councillor Clark Somerville didn't vote in favour of the renaming as a matter of principle.

"I don't think it's up for sale... why didn't we go after

Molson's or Pepsi and have the Pepsi Centre? What's the price on this building?" he said, pointing to the Civic Centre during a break in the meeting.

Both Somerville and Acton Councillor Rick Bonnette voted against the donor recognition policy when it was before Council last April. It includes provisions to name a building after a company or individual to recognize a donation of at least \$500,000.

Bonnette said the debate should have ended there and last week's close vote could have been a "huge embarrassment" for Mold-Masters, who had a representative sitting in the audience.

"Here you have a corporate citizen that helped take the bull by the horns and made a huge contribution... we have a policy in place," Bonnette said, adding with-

out the donation, taxes or borrowing levels might have increased.

After the meeting Acton Councillor Dobbie Frizzell said he supports the policy.

"If a company wants to donate money and have their name on a building or room and it saves taxes, then I'm for it," Frizzell said, adding they were able to pay for up-

grades to the Acton arena through corporate donations.

The Town's donor recognition policy is specific to each facility's needs and provides various naming opportunities for different levels of donations.

The Town's manager of recreation services, Joy Thompson, said Halton Hills doesn't have a strong indus-

trial tax base to help pay for significant projects, like the Alcott twinning, the new leisure centre or Acton arena.

"You have the Rotary Room at the Acton arena and the Thompson and Rogers sound room and the Galvcast change room and there's still things for sale in Acton," Thompson said, adding it's a

*Continued on Page 2.*

## Leathertown Festival in jeopardy

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

It will take an eager group of willing volunteers to save the Leathertown Festival.

The skeleton team of organizers from last year's most successful festival ever, are holding a meeting on Monday (May 8) at the Legion and festival organizer, Jake Kuiken, didn't mince words about the outcome.

"If there's no turnout (at the meeting), there's no festival," Kuiken said on Monday, adding after 10 years, many of the core volunteers have stepped down or burned out.

"We need probably 12 people and they don't have to come to every meeting, but we need people we can count on," Kuiken said, adding they need people to handle public-

*Continued on Page 3.*

## Mazda Service Clinic

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