

Halton Hills to compete in communities in bloom

Since its inception five years ago, Communities in Bloom, the non-profit volunteer organization, has achieved amazing results in encouraging neighbourhoods beautification and I am very pleased to announce that the Town of Halton Hills will be competing in its 2001 programme.

With its slogan "People,

Plants and Pride... Growing Together," Communities in Bloom helps foster civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation. Communities first enter at the provincial level and, depending upon performance, can then go on to compete with municipalities across the country.

Entrants in specific population categories are judged on tidiness effort, landscaped and turf areas, heritage conservation, urban forestry, floral arrangements, environmental effort and community involvement. Points are awarded for what the municipal council does, what industry and commerce do, and for what private citizens achieve on their own properties.

Last year, Norval won over

800 of a possible 1,000 points and I know how hard the residents and businesses worked to achieve that score, and how worthwhile their efforts were. Now we're broadening our scope to include all the communities within the entire Town of Halton Hills and between now and the provincial awards ceremonies in September, we've got lots of work to do. And that means we're going to need volunteers to

help co-ordinate and work on programmes and events to make it all happen.

My office has already had an interest in participation in the competition from Acton and Georgetown Business Improvement Areas, Downtown Georgetown Farmers Market, Georgetown Horticultural Society, Acton Horticultural Society, Historic Georgetown Advisory Committee, Dutch Canadian Remembrance Committee, Friends of Fairy Lake Committee, Friends of Dominion Gardens Committee, Halton Chamber of Commerce, as well as Regional Chair Joyce

Savoline and Councillors Ron Chatten, Joan Robson, Clark Somerville, John Day, and Jane Fogal.

There are many organizations, businesses and individuals who are already working to accomplish the goals of Communities in Bloom. Remembrance Park in Georgetown is just one very recent example of how it can all come together when enough people care and work in unison to create something really grand. If you'd like to play an active role, large or small, or just get more information on this project, please call my office at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342.

TOWN DIGEST

Rapid rail?

The Federal government's interest in using the Georgetown rail corridor for a rapid rail system is tied to Toronto's bid for the 2008 Olympics, according to Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle, who says if the Olympics are a go, a lot of projects would be "bumped up."

"Perhaps more lines to the 407, improvements to the QEW...once the (Olympic) announcement is made, I think you'll hear all kinds of these things, back on the table again," Gastle said, adding Go Transit is going ahead with over-due improvements to the Georgetown Go parking lot.

Asked about a possible

return of GO trains to Acton, Gastle said GO's 10-year capital forecast says it may be possible to serve Acton with a limited number of peak period trains for \$10-million.

"Acton has always been shown as a future corridor, and maybe with the new development and maybe if we get Magna, there may be a bigger push."

Town staff continues to work on details of Magna's possible plan to build a truck chassis plant in Acton following a meeting in Acton last week with Town and Regional politicians.

"Some details are finished - like the traffic study, MTO permit for access to Highway

7 - all those kinds of things," Gastle said.

"We don't have their site plan, but it's obvious we're not going to get that until we get the final answer.

The New Tanner has been unable to confirm reports the Magna has renewed an offer to purchase the proposed Acton site, after letting it's option lapse two weeks ago.

Brock Street meeting

The \$289,500 reconstruction plan for Brock Street, between Victoria Avenue and Main Streets, is scheduled for May 9 in Georgetown, despite efforts by Councillor Rick Bonnette to have it moved to Acton.

Leathertown in jeopardy...

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ity, marketing, attracting vendors, arranging entertainment and setup and cleanup.

Kuiken said he's already getting calls from vendors who are anxious to book a booth for this August's event and he hopes that he doesn't have to disappoint them, or the thousands of people who look forward to the annual street party.



LAST CALL: Leathertown Festival organizers Jake Kuiken and Acton BIA co-ordinator Josey Murray hope Mill Street will be jammed this August for the proposed 10th edition of the popular event. They warn the festival is in jeopardy if volunteers don't come forward at a planning meeting at the Legion on Monday. - Ted Tyler photo

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After learning it was too late to change the location, Bonnette suggested all future meetings dealing with Acton items be held in Acton. Engineer Bob Austin said public information centres are held at the Civic Centre at Council's request.

Brock Street reconstruction includes new asphalt, curbs and sidewalks, and at the same time, the Region will replace the sanitary sewer and watermain.

The \$184,000 reconstruction of Victoria Avenue is in the Town's 2004 capital forecast.

HALTON REGION FREE COMPOST GIVE-AWAY

Residents Only - While Quantities Last

WHEN: Saturday, May 5, 2001 To
Saturday, May 12, 2001
(excluding Sunday)

Hours of Operation: Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Halton Waste Management Site
5400 Regional Road 25, Milton

Halton Residents are entitled to a maximum of 7 bags of compost per household.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BAGS/CONTAINERS AND SHOVEL AS RESIDENTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BAGGING THEIR OWN COMPOST.

The **FARE SHARE FOOD BANK** will be accepting donations of **NON PERISHABLE** food items during the Compost Give-Away.

www.region.halton.on.ca

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