

What's Inside



Reporter Maggie Petrushevsky interviewed the author of a new book on the Steven Truscott case on Page 4 of this issue.



Frances Niblock interviews the two people who are making sure Blue Springs golf course is allied with Mother Nature. See Page 8.



A popular Acton veteran now has 90 candles on his cake. See photo on Page 3.

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BOSS BENEFITS: It always pays to feed the boss, especially when he's stressed about opening a brand new food store. IGA employees Brenda Hillier, Sandi Burke, Cliff Palmer and Kim Young (far right) insisted boss Mike Manes try some of the fresh break sticks on Saturday. — Frances Niblock photo

Plans for Acton skateboard park are revised

Town Council's recent approval of \$15,200 for lighting at the Georgetown skateboard park has rubbed some Acton parents the wrong way, but it may be a catalyst in building a facility in Acton.

"People have said to me, 'Georgetown is getting lights - we can't even get a skate park,' and wonder what they can do," said Acton resident and mom Kim Noonan, a member of the Acton Concerns Committee (ACC).

Noonan, also the parent rep and chair of the St. Joseph's Catholic School Council, said she'd take the skateboard park idea to the ACC first, and then, possibly to the school council.

Told about the renewed interest in an Acton facility, Acton Councillor Clark Somerville, who met with Acton students last year as part of an ad hoc committee investigating an Acton facility, said any plan would have to include the kids and their parents.

"I think we should have another meeting later this month, or in November, to gauge interest and take it from there. If staff said we needed an amount (of money) to do a preliminary study we'd still have time to try to put something before the budget committee," Somerville said on Sunday.

Warren Harris, the Town's manager of parks and cemeteries, who attended a meeting with students last June at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School, said the "notion is still out there" for an Acton skateboard facility and they will meet soon to discuss the next steps, that include as-

sessing interest, looking at types of facilities and costs and locations.

In April 2000, a group including the Town, Halton Hills Community Support and Information, Halton police and the Kinette club of Acton, hosted a meeting at Acton High School to discuss the possibility of an Acton skateboard facility.

That meeting drew 43 local youths, but only two or three showed up at a follow-up meeting and none of the initial ad hoc committee members stepped forward to take the project any further.

That summer, the Town rented a mobile skateboard facility for Acton youths, but usage was "very disappointing" according to Town staff who said only a handful of people used it.

The Alcott skateboard park, a junior or entry level facility, cost \$85,000 to build, including \$19,000 raised through donations and fundraising by skateboarding and BMX bike enthusiasts.

During last year's Town budget debate, Mayor Kathy Gastle, with no prior notice, no staff report and little debate, convinced councillors to add \$8,000 to the budget for lighting the Georgetown Skateboard Park. That estimate almost doubled when staff determined exactly what type of light was necessary for safety and security.

Quarry changes hands again

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

The quarry south of Acton, one of the last resources of good quality limestone in the Toronto area, is changing hands again.

Dufferin Aggregates, whose Milton quarry straddles the Halton Hills southerly boundary, and is the largest quarry in Canada, signed a deal last Friday to purchase the Acton operation, along with other assets of Lafarge SA.

It's "business as usual," for the approximately 80 workers at the Acton quarry, according to Acton general manager Bill Burkart on Tuesday, who said he didn't think there'd be "much change" in Acton, but had not discussed plans with Dufferin officials.

Dufferin Aggregates is purchasing Acton as part of a deal with Lafarge, which

bought Blue Circle Aggregates worldwide in July. Burkart said under competition rules LaFarge was forced to sell Canadian assets, including the Acton operation.

Burkart, also at the helm in

the early 1990's when there were controversial plans to turn the quarry into a dump for Toronto, has a long history with the Acton facility.

"My father and a friend of mine, we all worked at

Armbr, or United (Aggregates Limited) we bought it (Acton) in 1985 from Indusmin, and held it until '97," Burkart said, adding Acton was a Blue Circle Aggregates asset, sold to Lafarge in July.

The Acton quarry is licensed to ship 3.5-million tonnes of crushed limestone to construction sites in the GTA a year. Blue Circle has an application before the province to increase Acton production to 4-million tonnes, from 3.5-million. At that rate it would take 10 to 15 years to deplete the limestone deposits.

Mining is complete north of Regional Road 43 and partially complete on the south side. Extraction in an area south of Regional Road 43 and west of Third Line, is scheduled to begin later this year or early next year.

Santa Claus
coming Nov. 17

Parade Chairman Bill Spielvogel had some good news this week - Santa Claus is coming to town on Saturday, November 17 and a big parade will welcome him, of course. "Mark this date on your calendar," Bill says, to all children in Acton and area. The theme for this year's parade is "A Nursery Rhyme Christmas."

"Please send in your float entries as soon as possible," Bill says. "Anyone who did not receive a form can call me (Bill Spielvogel) at 853-2924."

The annual Santa Claus parade is sponsored by the Acton Firefighters Association.

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