



ACE ATHLETES: Members of the Halton Hurricanes Major Peewee AAA hockey team, the Georgetown Eagles Minor Peewee baseball team and highland dancer Kylie de Chastelain were honoured by the Town at a Municipal Awards ceremony on Monday at the Civic Centre. — Frances Niblock photo

Town honours athletes, dancer

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

Athletes and a fleet-footed dancer were honoured by the Town at a Municipal Awards ceremony at the Civic Centre on Monday.

With proud parents, many armed with cameras, in the gallery, members of the Halton Hurricanes Major Peewee AAA Hockey team and coaching staff received medallions and applause for their Bronze medal finish in 2002-2003 Ontario Minor Hockey Association play.

The team lost just two games in regular season play, won two tournaments



FLEET FOOTED: Kylie de Chastelain of Georgetown received a Municipal Award from the Town on Monday night to recognize the Bronze medal she won at the 2003 Canadian Dancing Series Intermediate category. Kylie delighted the crowd at the ceremony with a highland dance demonstration. — Frances Niblock photo

and was consolation champ in another.

Players and coaches with the Georgetown Eagles Minor Peewee Baseball team were honoured for capturing the "A" Silver medal in the Ontario Baseball Association finals.

The team also won the Central Ontario Baseball Association championship with a last-inning victory over their archrivals from Burlington.

With strains of *The Scottish Lilt* filling the Council Chambers, Kylie de Chastelain showed the crowd why she was named the 2002 Canadian Dancing Series Gold and Silver medallist, and winner of

the Overall Highland Novice trophy, and the 2003 Canadian Dancing Series Intermediate category Bronze medallist.

De Chastelain trains with the Georgetown School of Highland Dancing.

Mayor Rick Bonnette told the award recipients that they should be extremely proud of their accomplishments and dedication.

For 28 years, individuals and groups that brought honour to the Town through their achievements in the academics, arts, culture, sports or recreational pursuits, have been recognized with Municipal Awards.

Volunteerism is the heart and soul of any community. Here in Halton Hills, we have no shortage of volunteers to help make our community a special place to live. On behalf of Council, congratulations are in order to Max MacSween, the Acton Rotary Club's 2004 Citizen of the Year, and to Jenny Tuffin, chosen the Georgetown Lions Club 2003 Citizen of the Year.

As well, congratulations to two recently retired Town employees of the Public Works Department, Keith Smiley and Ron McKnight, as recipients of the Ontario Good Roads Association Long Service Awards. Between them, they have over 60 years of service with the Town.

At the March 2 Council Meeting, a Motion was brought forward by Ward 2 Councillors Joan Robson, Bryan Lewis and Clark Somerville for the Town to establish a Steering Committee of staff, Ward 2 Councillors, and Glen Williams residents to comment on the reconstruction of Wildwood Road after a Safety Audit has been completed. This will allow for public input from residents of the Glen, right from the beginning of the process.

Mayor's Corner

By Rick Bonnette



On behalf of Council, I have corresponded with the Bergermeester of the Town of Holten in the Netherlands to investigate the possibility of twinning our communities. Several local community organizations have organized cultural exchange trips to the Netherlands in recent years, and this unique opportunity will further our efforts in "Keeping the Memory Alive." Situated in the Town of Holten are 1,900 graves of soldiers who fought for our freedom, among which is the grave of a soldier from Glen Williams, and from Acton. Stay tuned for an update.

Halton Hills has joined forces with 12 other rural and semi-rural municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area to form the Greater Toronto Mayors Country-side Alliance. Our goal is to have a united voice at Queen's Park on special issues concerning the protection of greenspace, preservation of agriculture, roads, and aging infrastruc-

ture, with little or no funding being received from the Province of Ontario. In addition to Halton Hills, municipalities of the newly formed Alliance include, Brock, Clarington, Georgina, East Gwillimbury, Milton, Newmarket, Scugog, Whitchurch-Stouffville, and Aurora.

Halton Hills is proud to welcome the following new business in March — The Power Zone Fitness Club, Georgetown. I was pleased to be joined by Wards 1 and 2 Councillors for the official opening of the new expansion to Sobeys, in Acton. In the welcome back category, Halton Hills Council welcomes Acton Precision Millwrights Ltd. This company had previously moved away, but now has relocated back to Acton.

In conjunction with Halton's Physician Recruitment Program, I had the opportunity to welcome Dr. Joy Schuurman to Halton Hills on Friday, March 12 as a potential new physician to our municipality. We

toured the William Osler Health Centre (Georgetown Campus), and the Acton Medical Centre. Dr. Schuurman, who will be available for placement this June, expressed genuine interest in establishing her practice in Halton Hills. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Plans are presently underway by our two local Legions, Acton Branch 197, and Georgetown Branch 120, for the Candlelight Tribute walks in Halton Hills on May 7. Along with students from all our schools, this is an opportunity for us to show our gratitude, and to honour all those who served in the cause of peace and freedom for our country. Watch for more details on this event.

The Town of Halton Hills will be hosting its annual Earth Day festivities at the Central Works Yard, 11620 Trafalgar Road, on Saturday, April 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Residents can purchase small trees for \$5.00, pick up free wood chips or compost, and enjoy a breakfast or lunch. A colouring contest will be held for children, and a free draw for a tree for adults. See you there!

OPINION

Liberal nomination raises questions

BY MAGGIE
PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

I believe it's Shakespeare we quote when we comment on there being "something rotten in Denmark".

Unfortunately, I'm coming to question whether the same can be said about Canada.

The latest redefining of federal electoral boundaries has joined Halton Hills with a chunk of Wellington County and resulted in the need for new federal riding associations to serve what is being called Wellington-Halton Hills.

Bruce Hood's nomination victory raises faded memories of a controversial Progressive Conservative nomination in 1977 when our newspaper was sued for a cartoon portraying the winning candidate as standing on what we mistakenly thought was trash. Closer examination showed the "debris" to be the trampled bodies of party members over which he had walked in order to win his nomination.

The manner of his winning split his support base and Liberal Julian Reed earned an easy victory. Hood's nomination may well do the same for the Liberals this time judging from the "off-the-record" comments my diverse contacts insisted on offering as soon as Hood's nomination was declared.

In January I was greatly impressed as I watched the new Conservative Party take the time and make the effort to smoothly integrate PC and Alliance memberships from four previous ridings into one cohesive association with fair representation from each of its forerunners. This is good, I decided.

The "long knives" atmosphere pervading the Liberal association's founding meeting on Feb. 27 was totally foreign and unnatural in my experience with the party. Longtime Halton Hills contacts were stunned at the preference meeting organizers were showing for Hood. The association's proposed slate called for 16 directors and five executive members. The slate was unbalanced - in favour of Wellington - even though Halton Hills has the bulk of the riding's population. Still more suspicious was the absence from the slate of a longtime, high profile Halton Hills director who was not supporting Hood. Adding her name didn't erase the tension.

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario) chairman Carl Littler told me Hood's campaign chair Deborah Sutherland had considered becoming a candidate, then threw her support to Hood instead. As a former Wellington County councillor representing Erin, her involvement in plans to locate a waste transfer station at Ospringe probably gave her reason to question her local popularity. But why choose Hood and

why such heavy support?

At the March 10 nomination meeting, Julian Reed nominated Gary Zemlak. Under normal circumstances nomination by a sitting member is tantamount to a coronation. Not this time.

Upwards of a quarter of those attending the nomination meeting were denied the right to vote because the membership applications were signed after the deadline. When I questioned Littler about how anyone knew the deadline if the meeting hadn't yet been called, he said he gives candidates a "heads up" that he's about to call the meeting. He didn't bother to warn Zemlak because he had not yet filed his papers.

Somehow I don't question Zemlak's decision not to challenge the nomination vote when Littler is the final arbitrator of any challenges. After 28 years in the business, gut instinct tells me when I run into power. Even staffers in the same office as Littler refused to go on record about some of my questions.

Probably the most disturbing questions surround the lack of communication between Wellington and Halton Hills riding association memberships. If the Conservatives can get eight groups together, why couldn't the Liberals in south Wellington pick up a telephone and find out who is involved with the party in Halton Hills? Were they scared they might run into a better organized or more powerful group? Wouldn't co-operation have been a more sensible approach to getting their own way? Better yet, Hood is a former Milton man. Doesn't it stand to reason that he'd get lots of support from his old riding association if they considered him worthy of support?

And after 30 years in Liberal politics, half of those in Ottawa, wouldn't the sitting Liberal MP know Hood well if he was a dedicated party worker? Why should Reed support Zemlak? Did no one stop to think there might be a good reason for his choice?

And Brenda Chamberlain is the sitting MP for the Wellington half of the new riding. She too, is a Liberal. If he's been involved up there since leaving Halton, why was she not on hand to support Hood's bid for the nomination?

The really ugly questions have to do with why the Liberal party would seem to have favoured Hood. Shouldn't it occur to the party that a former patronage appointee is not a wise choice when patronage scandals are making headlines across the nation?

Maybe they should have considered the fact his opponent is a young, well-spoken, people-oriented man from the PC rather than the Alliance side of the Conservative party. Shades of the Conservative loss in 1977.