



An ecstatic Georgetown Little Theatre Building Committee (from left) Michael Wilson, John Carter, Dorothy Hunt and Ron Hunt were joined by Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle as she presented them with a building permit allowing the local theatre group to begin rebuilding of their rehearsal hall on the same location after the structure was destroyed in a fire three years ago.

Photo by Ted Brown

Original building destroyed by fire Construction to begin next month on Little Theatre rehearsal hall

Three years after a fire destroyed the Georgetown Little Theatre rehearsal hall in Stewarttown, construction will begin next month on a new building to meet the needs of the 40-year-old community theatre company.

"This is a magnificent development," said Colin Hoare, president of Georgetown Little Theatre (GLT).

"Ever since the fire, it has always been the goal of the theatre group to rebuild, so that we could once again have our own 'home'. A tremendous amount of hard work has gone in to the planning and design of the new building, and the efforts of all the members of the Rebuilding Committee cannot be praised too highly."

GLT is a non-profit group that presents about three plays a year at the John Elliott Theatre. The Stewarttown site, which had been the old Esquesing Town Hall, had been used as the group's rehearsal and meeting hall.

The new building will be built on the site of this former rehearsal hall at 33 Stewarttown Rd. It will conform to all regulations of the Credit Valley Conservation flood plain management policies.

As well, GLT was cognizant of the residents of Stewarttown, and asked its architects for a design that would blend in with the atmosphere of the hamlet and the residences surrounding the property. The group also convened a public meeting where local

residents were informed of the plans.

The groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Thursday, Nov. 8 at 10 a.m., with Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle expected to attend.

"The Georgetown Little Theatre has been recognized as one of the mainstays of top entertainment in the community," Gastle said. "Everyone was devastated when the previous building was destroyed. The theatre group has not had an easy time these past three years, since they have had to rent space for their rehearsals and set preparation. Despite these disadvantages, they have still presented first-rate productions."

"With a new rehearsal hall, the group can now think of undertaking more ambitious productions, and will hopefully be able to attract more theatre-minded people who will ensure that the excellent standard will be maintained for many years to come," the mayor said.

Albert Otten of Heritage Construction has been hired to build the hall, with construction to be completed over the winter months, and landscaping done in the spring.

GLT is still raising funds for the new building and donations can be made through Canada Trust, Building Account #532944. The Georgetown Rug Hooking Guild members are preparing a banner and once completed, it will hang in the John Elliott Theatre with all the names of the donors.

Police auction set for Saturday

The Halton Regional Police Service will host an auction tomorrow (Saturday) at police headquarters (1151 Bronte Rd.) in Oakville.

Viewing and registration is from 8:30-9:30 a.m. with the auc-

tion beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Among the unclaimed items up for grabs will be more than 100 bicycles, VCRs, step ladders, CDs, tools, a portable air tank, electronic and stereo equipment and a scooter.

Rec and Parks director bids farewell

After 15 years with the Town of Halton Hills, the past two years as its Director of Recreation and Parks, Bryan Shynal is leaving to take a new job with the City of Hamilton.

Shynal's last day with the town is today (Friday) and he is set to begin his new position as Director of Parks for the City of Hamilton on Monday.

He said leaving the town was a tough decision to make.

"This is a perfect job and the perfect community to work in," said Shynal, who was the town's Manager of Parks and Cemeteries for 12 years.

Shynal, 45, a Stoney Creek resident who was born and raised there, said however, the new position will allow him to live and work in the same community.

"There is something to be said to be giving back to your

own community," said Shynal.

Shynal said both the town's population and town's infrastructure have grown significantly since he began his career here.

He said the town's developed parkland has doubled since he started, and its park land holdings have tripled.

He was particularly pleased to see the town and Halton Hills Village Homes had made a deal that will see about 300 acres of Silver Creek valley lands turned over to the town.

"That was one of the first things I became aware of when I came (here)," said Shynal.

During his career with the town he saw the construction of the new Acton arena, expansion of the Mold-Masters Sportsplex and planning of the town's recreation centre in Georgetown South and Trafalgar Sports Park.

When asked about the chal-

lenges he's faced he said "this is such an involved community" and part of the challenge has been keeping up with community's interest in being involved. He pointed to community driven projects such as Willow Park, Remembrance Park, and Friends of the Garden, which he called "all good stuff" but which required involvement from Recreation and Parks staff.

"I've been able to see a lot of achievement through teamwork," said Shynal. "This is a team-oriented environment."

While he is looking forward to the challenges of his new job with the City of Hamilton, he said he'll miss the people he's worked with both at the town, and in the community.

He said he wants to show his appreciation to the whole community for being "patient, supportive and great to work with."



Town employees enjoyed a fun evening at the Gallery of the Cultural Centre as outgoing Recreation and Parks director Bryan Shynal (second from right) was given a farewell send-off Wednesday. Colleagues (from left) Warren Harris, Joy Thompson and Paul Stover presented Shynal with his own "Wilson" volleyball from the movie *Cast Away*, after he had likened leaving Halton Hills to Tom Hanks losing his "Wilson."

Photo by Ted Brown

Henry Tse, the town's current Director of Building, Zoning and Enforcement Services, will be acting Director

of Recreation and Parks until the position is filled.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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