

Garden project progressing quickly

Changes are occurring rapidly at the Old Seed House Garden as volunteers, businesses and donors come together to transform the corner of Guelph St. and Maple Ave. into a centerpiece park for Georgetown.

Through the efforts of the volunteer-based Friends of the Old Seed House Garden, a two-acre garden honours the heritage site of the Dominion Seed House, a bulb and seed catalogue business known throughout Canada. It is part of the larger eight-acre park site at the corner.

"It is a labour of love for these publicly-motivated citizens who have applied for grants, held fund-raising events and sought donations from the public in order to create a lovely garden for all to enjoy," said fund-raising chair Barb Baron.

The garden will be a tremendous asset for all residents of Halton Hills, agreed voluntary chairperson Jane Fogal.

"We are very excited to see Phase One come close to completion, knowing that people can begin using the garden as a pleasant destination during a walk, drive or bike ride," Fogal said. "As progress with Phases Two and Three continues, formal flower gardens and a band shell will add to its attractiveness, and we anticipate it becoming a favourite location for wedding photos."

New on the site is a small garden shed with carefully reclaimed wood from the old Ruddell farmhouse in the Moore Park neighbourhood. Perhaps in the future, it will even be used as a small classroom, said master

gardener Belinda Gallagher, who is serving as general contractor for the site.

"I think it suits the site, and as the cedar shakes fade over the course of the next year, it will look more like a permanent structure," she said.

A number of businesses have come on board in recent weeks to provide labour or products:

- Eagle Landscaping provided crew and materials to install the dry stone riverbed as well as some tree and shrub material last week. "What it accomplished in half a day took almost a year off our project estimates because this dry riverbed was our Phase Two," said Gallagher.

- Leathertown Lumber of Acton donated lumber for the bridge

- Georgetown High School tech students built the information kiosk— with lumber supplied by Home Hardware

- Carney Electric installed the electrical service with products donated by Gerrie Electric

- Dufferin Custom Concrete donated concrete

- Dufferin Aggregates and J.C. Duff Sand and Gravel donated aggregate

- Sheridan Nurseries have donated shrubs and perennials

- Fraser Direct will direct a portion of its Annual Charity Book Sale proceeds to the Old Seed House Garden. The sale date is Saturday, Nov. 16.

- Georgetown Little Theatre will hold a benefit night of its fall production, *Don't Dress For Dinner*. Tickets for the benefit performance have already sold out.

"Companies large and small

have come forward to help us meet our initial \$200,000 goal," said Baron. "Along with a great many Georgetown firms, businesses from Acton, Oshawa, Mississauga and Toronto have been generous with funds, products and hours of donated labour. Many individuals have strong ties or memories of the former Dominion Seed House enterprise, and also want to participate in this special effort to maintain the history and beauty of the site."

As well, a successful tree donation program has resulted in 35 trees being sponsored by residents.

"We're very excited to see the support in the adopt-a-tree program," said Gallagher. "You'll be seeing some plant material which is unusual to this area now. We have been able to track down some rare and nearly extinct species, which we will be reintroducing to the area."

The Friends are hoping that sponsors will come forward for the remaining seven trees by this Friday as Saturday, (Oct. 26) is tree planting day. Volunteers will finally put shoulders to shovels to plant the Phase 1 shrubs, and perennials that have been donated by Sheridan Nurseries. Planting is scheduled to begin at noon and tree donors are invited to come and have their pictures taken with their trees.

Trees available for donation: a dawn redwood (\$300); a Serbian spruce (\$300) and four white firs (\$350 each). Descriptions of these species and a donation form are available on the Friends Web site, www.oldseedhousegarden.com or by call-



The executive of the Friends of the Old Seed House Garden recently met at the site for a photo which will be displayed on the one of two signs made by Enameltec Porcelain Signage, owned by PG Bell Inc., to go on either side of the kiosk being made by Georgetown District High School students. Executive members include, front, from left, Georgina Hebb, Webmaster, Diane Norton, volunteer co-ordinator, Barb Baron, fund-raising chair, Sue Balogh, publicity chair and Mattie and Gord Spencer, newsletter committee. In back, chair Jane Fogal, treasurer Sarah Burrows and Belinda Gallagher, vice-chair and chair of the design and development committee.

Photo by Ted Brown

ing Sarah Burrows at 905-873-8386.

Anyone wishing to help with Saturday's planting or future maintenance of the garden by

becoming a "friend" may also call Diane Norton at 905-877-7601.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer



The Acton Business Improvement Association has a new office located at 16 Mill St. East. On hand for the official opening were from left, first runner-up to Miss Acton Fall Fair Rebecca Burtney, regional chairman Joyce Savoline, BIA co-ordinator Josey Bonnette, BIA board of directors member Tracy Mitchell, BIA board chair John McNabb, BIA board member Monica Galway, Mayor Kathy Gastle and Miss Acton Fair Joanne Haughie.

Photo by Lisa Tallyn

Acton BIA gets new home, new hours

The Acton Business Improvement Association has a new home—in the heart of downtown Acton—and beginning in January will be staffed by a full-time co-ordinator.

The BIA's new office, located at 16 Mill St. East, was officially opened last week with many area merchants, and residents on hand.

"From the day I started, I wanted to be downtown," said BIA co-ordinator Josey Bonnette, who, beginning in January, will be working in the office full-time. Up until then she will be in the office week-day afternoons from 1-5 p.m.

Bonnette said it was a big step for the BIA board of direc-

tors to get an office downtown and to hire a full-time co-ordinator.

By working full-time she said she "will be able to concentrate fully on the BIA."

Bonnette is pleased with the new downtown location and believes it will be more convenient for the merchants and allow her to "feel the pulse of the merchants and the people."

For the past seven years the BIA office has been located in an administrative office at The olde Hide House but with the expansion of the Hide House that space, which was provided at no charge, was no longer available.

Before moving into the new location, Bonnette said they

extensively renovated the office that used to be a clothing store. The walls have been faux finished and new light fixtures installed.

She said Alexanian Carpets and Flooring in Acton generously donated the flooring and labour.

Bonnette said the office will be associated with the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and brochures highlighting Halton Hills attractions and the surrounding area will be available.

The phone number at the new office is 519-853-9555. Beginning January it will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and until then from 1-5 p.m.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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