

## Craft show draws good crowd

The annual Georgetown District High School Craft Show attracted dozens of vendors and hundreds of visitors Saturday. Among those checking out the various crafts were Marlene Dorcas (right) of Georgetown who was looking over the merchandise from Hearts and Flowers with her daughter Kimberly Vella.



Photo by Trish England

## Region will consider rural trash pickup

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with Campbellville's, have the worst record. At least 30 per cent of the depots' refuse is not recyclable at all, and that all adds up to the region's removal cost.

The region currently spends about \$310,000 a year on the program, and since rural residents don't pay taxes for waste pickup, urban residents' taxes are picking up the tab.

Planning and public works committee recommends an additional \$65,000 in enhancements for the depots be discussed during the 2003 budget deliberations. These include signage warning of fines, fencing, hiring a person to monitor the depots and paying for additional pickups.

But Bonnette said this is just putting "perfume on a pig by throwing more money at it. It could be cheaper, but in the long run the rural roadside pickup would be better."

Bonnette says it's too early to fully commit to rural pickup, and he wants to wait for the tender results. But initial investigation shows that taxpayers may be getting the "best bang for their bucks." Currently rural residents who hire contractors to pick up their garbage pay between \$350-\$525 a year, but the region-wide pickup could lower that cost to a region-wide \$105/year, he said. Urban residents currently pay \$102.

His committee also recommended that Halton Region discuss with Halton Police the possibility of keeping an eye on the depots to identify non-resident use of the sites.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

## Money is 'sitting there'

# Bonnette pushing hard for Acton sports park

Councillor Rick Bonnette wants a sports park in Acton, and he wants it soon.

"I'm feeling a level of frustration," said Bonnette. "Close to three years council has aspired to acquire land for a sports park in Acton but nothing has happened."

This is the fifth time in two years Bonnette had asked for action, he said. "The wheels are in the mud."

Bonnette did not specify what parcel of land the town could be considering for a sports park.

"I'm afraid we're going to lose a window of opportunity," the Acton/Ward 2 Councillor said. "It's in the budget, the money is still sitting there."

"I feel like a kid who wants to go into candy store and he's got money to burn, but he's told he can't go in."

Bonnette was referring to \$300,000 that has been set aside in a cash-in-lieu reserve fund "earmarked" to go towards the purchase of land for the sports park, said treasurer Ed DeSousa. Council must approve any land deal.

In the 2003-2011 capital forecast the town has also set aside \$100,000 in 2003 for the first phase of a three-phase sports park, \$120,000 in 2004 for a skateboard park, \$100,000 in 2005 for phase 2 and \$100,000 in 2008 for phase 3. Once again, council must approve the spending each year.

Bonnette said a community group is

attempting to build a skateboard park in Acton and the town has budgeted money for it as well in 2004 forecast. Plus, he said, there's a need for soccer pitches and baseball diamonds in Acton and area.

Once the town acquires the land, a master plan will need to be developed through a public process and that takes time, he explained.

"I want to see something happening on this so we get the master plan and start designing sports fields for Acton and the Ward 2 areas."

"I want to make it a staff priority," he said.

Bonnette told staff he wanted a report by the next council meeting (Nov. 4).

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

# Indoor pools need \$25,000 of emergency repair work

The town will spend close to \$25,000 on emergency repairs to Acton and Georgetown Indoor Pools.

Council gave staff approval to spend the money at last week's meeting.

A drain return line has come apart at the Acton Pool resulting in 2,000 gallons of water being lost in a 24-hour period. Alcapulco Pools of Cambridge has recommended either replacing the main drain costing \$35,000 or creating two new poolside wall drain outlets, costing about \$15,500 plus GST. The total cost would be about \$18,500. The money will be taken from the capital finance reserve fund.

"Having been a principal in Acton, I

know how much the schools and the public depend upon that pool," said Georgetown Councillor Ron Chatten. "We have no alternative but to take the money from the proposed account, and we'll fix this as soon as possible."

Manager of facilities Paul Stover said the work will be scheduled when it has the least impact on instruction and school programs, but will not incur higher labour costs during the Christmas holidays. The pool will be closed for about two weeks in December but reopen in time for the January instruction programs.

Alcapulco Pools, which also got the million-dollar pool contract for the new leisure centre, is well experienced, he

said.

At the Georgetown Indoor Pool a deck drain pump failed on Oct. 10. The cost to remove and replace the main pump and reconnect the backup pump is \$6,000. The money will be taken from the Tax Stabilization Reserve.

"Emergencies are emergencies. But the unfortunate part, it seems roughly once a month that Mr. Stover comes hat in hand, saying CEI need to fix something," said Ward 2 Councillor Bryan Lewis, wondering if the town should be putting money into the 2003 budget to accommodate future emergency repairs.

Recreation and Parks director Terry Alyman said there are different strate-

gies to prepare for emergency repairs, but "it's really the call of the council."

Since the municipality took over the pools from the Halton District School Board in 1996, the town has spent well over \$250,000 on rehabilitation of the two pools, Stover said. He said 75 per cent of the pools have been rehabilitated, and are in "fairly sound shape." There will be some capital items in the 2003 budget, such as furnace and heater replacements, but it will help to extend the life of the pools for a good number of years.

"With adequate renewal dollars the pools will serve for quite a number of years," said Stover.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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