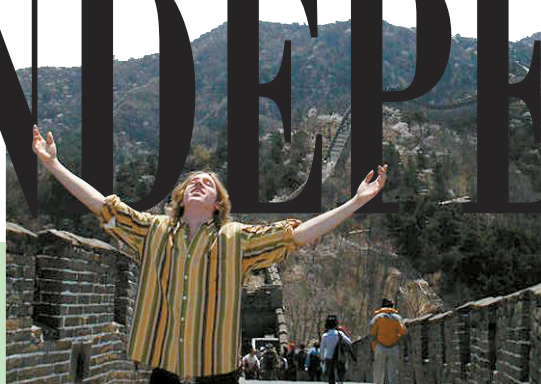


THE INDEPENDENT



Local teacher gives first-hand account of life in China

Page 23

New BIA manager ready for the challenge

Page 3



50 cents (+GST) Vol. 129 No. 44 Wednesday, January 17, 2006 52 Pages Circulation 21,220 Voted Ontario's best newspaper

INSIDE



You and Your Pet: Brody needs a loving home

Page 10



Raiders easily roll over Derbys

Page 20

Editorial	6
Gary Carr	7
Sports	20, 21
Calendar	22
Classifieds	24-27

FRIDAY...

The Brampton Major Excels grabbed a Georgetown player with the first pick in the Ontario Lacrosse Association draft. Find out who in Friday's *Independent & Free Press*.

For breaking news go to: www.independentfreepress.com



What's that about global warming?

Don McLean, of Moultray Crescent, was among the countless Halton Hills residents who had to scrape off the evidence of the year's first snowfall and freezing rain that accumulated early Monday morning. McLean didn't think it was much of a storm— considering he originally hailed from Newfoundland— saying this week's weather is nothing compared to storms in his home province.

Photo by Ted Brown

Ball league makes \$100K pitch to Town for diamond

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

Georgetown Slopitch League threw out the first pitch for a new ball diamond at the budget-starved Trafalgar Rd. Sports Park with the announcement that it will give \$100,000 to the Town of Halton Hills.

Tim Abbott, president of the adult recreational league, gave the good news to the Town's budget committee (all members of council) at its public night Monday.

The league had levied a \$100 capital surcharge on each of its 70-odd teams per year for the past seven years to raise the money for the contribution.

Abbott said the group has about \$86,000 in the bank and should have the remainder by the time the diamond opens for service in 2008.

"We'll have the money when you're ready to spend it," he assured budget committee.

Abbott said his group has been pressing for new diamonds for a long time. His league has more than 1,000 members who play four nights a week on local diamonds, and the demand for more and better diamonds is high.

At first, the group looked at renovating existing diamonds, but the cost proved to be too high.

Trafalgar Sports Park, located on the corner of Trafalgar Rd. and 17 Sideroad, has been on the drawing board since 1999. Since then Town has funded only \$800,000 of the \$10 million 10-phase project. The Park's master plan calls for 14 soccer fields (six with lighting), four ball diamonds (with lighting), picnic shelter, concession, washrooms, play area and cemetery.

See SLOPITCH, pg. 4

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