

ACTON FREE PRESS



Local teacher gives first-hand account of life in China

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New BIA manager ready for the challenge

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You and Your Pet: Brody needs a loving home

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Raiders easily roll over Derbys

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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



Ball league tosses \$100K pitch to Town

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

Dog days of winter?

Lucas Harte, 12, plays with his three-year-old yellow lab, Harley, near St. Joseph's School in Acton on Sunday as they tried to take advantage of the little snow that fell. Lucas said he loves the winter and hoped that "there was more snow so I could go snowboarding." Well, he got his wish Monday as a major storm hit the area. Photo by Amber Richmond

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