



Joyce Thoms of Stewarttown was one of the many people who turned out to check out the produce on the first day of the Farmers' Market in downtown Georgetown Saturday. The market runs every Saturday morning until the fall.

Photo by Yves Desjardins

Around town in pictures



Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette was surrounded by friends as he took a unique approach to putting at his annual golf tournament at Blue Springs Golf Club. Joining in the fun with Bonnette were (from left) Josey Bonnette, Glen McKenzie, Halton Region chair Gary Carr and Steve Mahoney. The tournament raised more than \$30,000 with donations still being tabulated. All proceeds go towards heritage projects in Halton Hills.

Photo by Ted Brown



Thunderstorms forced the festivities to move inside for the fourth-annual Halton Hills Childcare Centre family barbecue, although that didn't seem to keep Lofty the Clown from having fun with the dozens of youngsters who attended the event. Six-year-old Noah Woodworth was prepared to get wet during the old milk-pouring trick, but mysteriously Lofty was able to make the milk disappear.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Relocation of police station angers Acton councillor

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

After years of being located in the downtown core, the Acton police station will be moved to a Queen St. plaza, which has one area councillor lashing out at Halton Police for not consulting with elected officials.

As of August 1 (tentative date) the station will be relocated to 315 Queen St, a plaza east of the downtown core.

Halton Regional Police Service Acting Superintendent Ron Welsh said Thursday the new facility is double the size of the current location and with the availability of fibre optics there it will allow police to incorporate the latest information technology. That is not possible at the current location, Welsh said.

The new location will also include a meeting room that can be used by officers and Acton residents to discuss community concerns and policing issues on a regular basis.

"It's an absolute shame, after generations of there always being a police pres-

ence and even the former chief always saying there would always be a police presence in our downtown," said Wards 1/2 Regional Councillor Clark Somerville at the Halton Hills council meeting Tuesday. "This has happened without any consultation even though they have always promised that would have some with elected officials."

Somerville said police "had dropped the ball by not... consulting with us before it was decided. I think it's a real shame to lose that presence downtown."

Ward 1 Councillor Jon Hurst said he understood Somerville's concerns "but I have confidence in the police service that they're capable and able to determine what they think is the best location and the best facility to serve the needs of the people of Acton."

"They thought the present location is inadequate and outdated and I'm sure they spent time looking for an alternative location downtown, and there aren't any."



CLARK SOMERVILLE

Welsh said police did discuss the need for a new location with the Acton Business Improvement Area chair and other locations were considered, but they weren't suitable.

He said there is a lack of retail space in Acton.

Welsh said the matter was also discussed with the Halton Police Services Board.

Welsh said Halton Police see the new location as an improvement in services for the citizens of Acton.

"We're not really quite sure why there is such a concern about moving the short distance that we are," said Welsh. "We're certainly not abandoning Acton."

"We're actually moving in the direction that Acton is in respect to new growth," said Welsh.

He said the new location has the potential to allow for more officers in Acton if the service is needed.

Ward 1 Councillor Mike O'Leary was concerned the move might mean the loss of Acton's village constable program.

"Although Acton is not big, having a police presence right down town is comforting to the merchants, so much so that several of the banks have contributed over the years to the rent of the existing station," said O'Leary. "And if the existing station is not usable in police eyes, I think we should look for some assurance that the village constable program is continuing."

Welsh said the village constable program will continue, and the constable will still be doing foot patrol in the downtown core.

He said there would continue to be a designated police parking spot in the downtown core so the constable will be able to park there and walk the beat.

Welsh also said an emergency phone that links directly to police will continue to be located at the current location and also at the new police station.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said he understood "why the building wasn't adequate."

—With files from Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

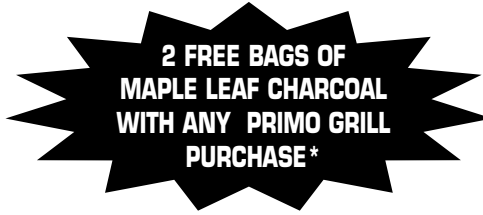
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