

SENIORS LIFESTYLES

Rocking in Acton

JULIE CONROY
Acton Seniors Recreation Centre

It's only two weeks before the Acton Seniors Recreation Centre gets rocking at its famous Rock-a-thon event at Sobey's.

Two rocking chairs will be set up in the grocery store at the Queen St. plaza and at least one of them has to be rocking during the 36-hour marathon, starting at 9 a.m. Friday, April 18 and ending at 9 p.m. on Saturday, April 19.

Every person participating commits to rock for one-hour (or longer) and people can help by either rocking or sponsoring someone. Already signed up to rock are Mayor Rick Bonnette, Councillors Jon Hurst and Clark Somerville, Fiona from Blue Springs Spa and Nancy Wilkes from Acton Optical.

Catherine Hunt of the Acton Seniors Centre was one of the many who took part in the 2006 Rock-a-thon, a 36-hour non-stop rocking marathon held at Sobey's.

File photo: Ted Brown

Why do we do this?

We pay the Town of Halton Hills 25 per cent of the rent and operating costs of our Centre, located within the Acton Arena and Community Centre— plus a rental fee whenever we use the adjacent community hall. We try to make our programs self-supporting through the fees we charge, but that isn't always possible. And of course, everyone pays an annual membership fee.

The first Acton Seniors Centre's 36-hour Rock-a-thon was held on Friday, Sept. 30-Saturday, Oct. 1 in 2005. It was the brainchild of Margaret Dodgson when she was sitting around a table with her fellow fundraising committee members. They were trying to think up innovative ways of raising funds for the Acton Seniors Centre.

Her initial idea was to hold it at the Acton Centre, but Wayne Stewart took this idea to new heights when he contacted Bill Graham (Sobeys franchise holder) to see if it could be held at Sobey's.

Bill was enthusiastic, but before the idea could be brought to fruition, he moved to the Mississauga store. The new store manager Mark Latimer, together with Ann Hamilton, helped in any way they could, by providing the space, stage, prizes, advertising and refreshments to keep us going. Kevin Harris provided music throughout the 36 hours.

The first year we raised \$5,000, which exceeded our wildest dreams and the following year, 2006, we raised \$7,000. It took a lot of work and organizing, but obviously well worth the effort. We took a break in 2007, but this month we're back for a third time.

So far we have great support from our town and members of the Halton Hills council: Jon Hurst, Clark Somerville, Mayor Rick Bonnette and his wife Josey who is the Acton BIA manager, business people, plus students, friends, relatives and lots more.

If you would like to show your support by rocking or sponsoring, please drop by the centre and put your name and phone number on the Rock-a-thon signup sheet and/or pick up a sponsor sheet.

For more details, call the centre at 519-853-5951.

This and that at the Centre...

JULIE CONROY
Acton Seniors Recreation Centre

The latest newsletters are at the front desk. If you haven't picked yours up, please do so, and then you will know all that is happening in the next couple of months at the Centre. I hope you like the new format, with photos and a clearer print. If you do like it, please let us know, as we need the feedback.

There will be a fashion show, 2 p.m. at the Centre on Tuesday, April 8. We will feature Fashions by Alia, and the models will be from our own Centre, so lots of familiar faces. Come out and see the latest in styles and colours for the spring and summer.

Tickets are on sale for the Spring Fling Dinner. On the menu are ham, scalloped potatoes, peas and carrots with pastries and fruit for dessert. The entertainment this month is The Great Bobolini. If you have seen him before you will know that he is not only a great magician, but funny too, so it should be an entertaining evening. Get your tickets early.

If you signed up for the Mohawk trip, hopefully you have already paid. Today (Friday) is the cut-off date for people wishing to go to Mohawk for dinner and the races. At last count there were over 50 people signed up.

Anyone signing up for the Kleinburg trip needs to pay by April 8, so I can confirm the bus size and entrance numbers to the McMichael Gallery.

Sheila Foster tells me that another 1,000 Izzy dolls were shipped to Afghanistan and other wartorn places recently. They are packed around medical supplies, so help is given two different ways: firstly to keep medical supplies safe and secondly, to help children understand the dangers of land mines. If you feel like knitting the dolls, Sheila would love to hear from you.

We would like to offer our condolences to the Robert Holmes family. Rob enjoyed hiking and playing cards at the Centre when he was able.



Rocking Marathon

Begins Friday, April 18 @ 9:00 am
and ends Saturday, April 19 @ 9:00 pm
(that's 36 hours of continuous rocking!)

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If you would like to show your support by rocking or sponsoring, please drop by the centre and put your name and phone number on the Rockathon sign-up sheet and/or pick up a sponsor sheet.

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Mayor Rick Bonnette
& Members of Council

Please come out to support this great event!