

Mayor's Corner

By Rick Bonnette



"How do you want to have fun in the future?" is the question being asked by the Recreation and Parks Department as they update the 1994 Recreation Master Plan this year. The *Strategic Action Plan* will focus on specific strategies to provide cost efficient and quality services for recreation, parks and facilities for the Town. The plan will review why the Town provides the recreational programs, services and facilities that it does, and what more can be done to address the public's needs and still be financially sound.

Public consultation will be a big part of the Recreation and Parks Strategic Action Plan, with focus groups, interviews and surveys being carried out in May and June. The final plan is targeted for February, 2007, after further public meetings and consultation. Be sure to talk with your local group or association or keep an eye out for public information as it's released later this month.

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A Volunteer Appreciation Event was held on Thursday, June 8 at the Gellert Community Centre to give thanks and appreciation to all our volunteers.

The Town of Halton Hills is very fortunate to have over 10,000 residents (according to Statistics Canada) who volunteer throughout our community. The dedication and hard work of these outstanding citizens is seen every day, and reflected in the common good of our town. Volunteers are the glue that keeps our community together.

Volunteering creates bonds of trust, encourages cooperation, promotes good health and emotional wellbeing, and most importantly, it increases social harmony. The gift of your time as a volunteer does make a difference to the quality of the lives of our residents that we have come to appreciate and enjoy. From the sports fields, to the hockey rinks, to the service clubs, hospitals, schools, churches and support groups, our volunteers go the extra mile to make our community special.

Many organizations and agencies would simply not exist without our volunteers. It is not surprising that research has proven that one of the best things we can do to improve people's lives, is to provide relevant opportunities to volunteer. One recent study found that 69% of people who volunteer as adults reported one or both of their parents had set an example by volunteering when they were young.

Volunteering is a spirit that can be inherited, and is a powerful gift that can be passed on to future generations. That's a legacy of which we can be proud. I urge you to continue to build upon the wealth of our community through your outstanding work as a volunteer.

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Mark Francis, a grade 12 Georgetown District High School student, is showcasing his landscape and wildlife acrylics and soft pastels artwork on the Mayor's Showcase. This talented young man's artwork is a pleasure to see!

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Keeping it real! I can be reached by telephone at 905-873-2601, ext. 2342, or by e-mail at mayor@haltonhills.ca.



SENIORS' WEEK WIND-UP: The summer picnic B.B.Q. at the Acton Seniors Centre was well attended as you can see by the picture. Everyone enjoyed Banjo man Mel Collie, who had everyone tapping their toes, and in stitches with his jokes as well as a B.B.Q on Friday, June 23 as the final wind-up to the celebrations during Seniors Week at the Acton Seniors Centre. — Eileen Dix photo

Grade 10s improve their literacy skills over year

By Frances Niblock

The literacy skills of Acton area Grade 10 students top the provincial level in recently released results of the mandatory Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

Eighty-six per cent of students at Acton High School passed the test the first time they wrote it, compared to 84 per cent Ontario-wide. The Halton District School Board's average is 90 per cent.

The Halton Catholic Board's average is 92 per cent and at Christ The King, the high school for many Acton area Catholics, the average is 88 per cent.

The Halton Board's Superintendent of Program Services, Gary Sadler said the continuing trend of improvement demonstrates their commitment to meeting the graduation requirement.

"After-school and lunch hour remediation programs were offered by schools... and schools further prepared their students through their classroom-based coaching on how to write large scale tests," Sadler said, adding the success rate for students in the Academic English courses is 98 per cent.

At Acton High School, Principal Bert O'Hearn said the results continue

to improve and he is really pleased.

"Everyone of our kids in the Academic stream — everyone that tried it for the first time passed it, and I think that is remarkable," O'Hearn said recently.

"We're still working away with our Applied students, but we're right around where the Board is — 66 or 67 per cent, so that's not disconcerting," he said, adding that 75 per cent of the students that were identified by their teachers as needing help with literacy remediation, were successful.

At the Halton Catholic District School Board, the results show a five per cent increase in the number of Grade 10 students who passed the literacy test the first time they wrote it.

Rick MacDonald, the Board's Superintendent of Education said a variety of factors explain the results.

Students who do not pass the literacy test can register for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course, a Grade 12 English credit.

Trunk Sale...

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would be best to not have the sale for a few weeks during the worst part of the reconstruction.

"We didn't really have a choice; however, we're looking forward to our grand re-opening on Saturday, August 12. We're really hoping to make it

a grand event to coincide with the Leathertown Festival," said another Trunk Sale committee member Angela Ash.

The Trunk Sale is now temporarily closed and will re-open August 12. For further information, vendors can call (519) 853-1550 or (519) 853-4299.

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