



Drum roll launches new Town web site

By Frances Niblock

With a push of a button on a laptop computer at the council chamber podium, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette – accompanied by a recording of a drum roll and councillors drumming on their desks – launched the Town’s refreshed website recently.

Under renovation since April, the site – www.haltonhills.ca – is a “big improve-

ment” over the old site, according to webmaster Kevin Brandon, who described the home page as “decidedly different” in an effort to be a community resource for all things Halton Hills.

New links provide easy and quick access to the Weather Network and to agendas and minutes of all Town committee and council meetings. As well, speeding tickets can be paid on-line, Town program registration is

simplified, and BizPal simplifies the licencing and permit process.

“I like what I see, so far,” Bonnette said, adding the pictures of local residents on the home page make the site “much more friendlier.”

Brandon said the \$12,000 cost of the site refresh included staff time for design and maintenance, and approximately \$3,000 to purchase several databases.

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What's Inside



Gold just keep coming Acton's way in hockey tournaments. Page 13.



Last week's photo of two skaters showed the wrong champions. See Page 9.



Acton Jiu Jitsu club was head and shoulders over others in tourney. See Page 15.

Young New Tanner paper carrier is bitten by dog. Page 3.

Spielvogels named Citizens of Year



Diane and Bill Spielvogel relax at home after being told they are Acton's 2007 Citizens of the Year. The Spielvogels have been in charge of Santa's parade for 25 years. - Frances Niblock photo

25 years of organizing annual Santa Claus parade

The hard work and eye for detail that bring pure joy to everyone who watches Acton's the annual Santa Claus parade has earned Bill and Diane Spielvogel Citizen of the Year honours from the Rotary Club of Acton.

“It is quite a shock – we're still stunned,” Diane Spielvogel said on Tuesday night after being informed of their selection.

“The parade is just something that we do – it's always been for the kids, and you just don't think you're doing something special,” Mrs. Spielvogel said of their 20-plus years of involvement in the parade, organized by the Acton Fire Fighters Association.

Bill Spielvogel, now a retired firefighter, started working on the annual pre-Christmas parade after the Fire Fighters' Association became involved in 1983/84.

Within several years, he was chair of the event – backed up by wife Diane, who said her job sometimes is Bill's “stabilizer, because he gets a little excited close

Expand uses of east end plaza

By Frances Niblock

A fitness centre, restaurant, medical offices or a daycare may now locate in a new commercial plaza in Acton East, but supermarkets, department stores and adult entertainment uses will not be allowed on the 1.5-acre site at the northwest corner of Queen Street and Tanner Drive.

With no public debate, Town Council recently approved Official Plan and

zoning requests from the landowner, Rinarin Limited, to expand the allowable uses on the site abutting its Honeyfield housing subdivision. There are currently two houses on the property that Rinarin earlier described as Acton's eastern gateway.

The current Highway Commercial designation allows motels, auto-related uses and building supply or produce outlets. Additional uses include places

of entertainment, institutional uses, commercial schools, and automotive commercial uses.

Rinarin has submitted two concept plans to the Town showing different site layouts. One has two single-storey retail buildings, a gas bar in the centre, and a convenience kiosk facing Highway 7 at Tanners Drive. The second plan shows two single-storey

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