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(519)853-2424 5A MILL STREET, E. ACTON www.actonjiujitsu.com MEXICAN MISSION: Money raised at a car wash/ barbecue and garbage sale at Bethel Christian Reformed Church on Saturday will help pay for a mission to Mexico by church members. – Frances Niblock photo

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APRIL 29

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June 1st opening for facility...

Continued from page 1

paint," Dautovich said, adding the whole project has been "pretty amazing."

"A lot of people have donated a lot of their time to make this happen – it's been a great team and what a wonderful facility for Acton," Dautovich said.

The existing entrance to the park will be re-aligned and a sidewalk built to the new facility. The parking lot – with 70-plus spaces – will be re-paved with new lighting and landscaping

ing and landscaping.
The Agricultural Society had more than \$250,000 in a building fund when it hired a professional fundraiser, Drew Brown, who set out to help raise \$750,000 for the facility.

Brown, whose contract ended last month, said at last count, they were at \$580,000, and counting.

Brown said although things slowed down a bit during last year's municipal

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election campaign, there was never a time that he thought they wouldn't reach their goal.

"This is such a remarkable community and one of the lasting legacies is that you now have people who have participated, taken part in a very successful campaign and others will look at it and say they can do it too for their project," Brown said on Monday, adding they raised more money than many people thought possible.

Interium facility manager Mike O'Leary said they are now down to fine tuning what the contents will look like.

"We're fine-tuning the nitty gritty, the nuts and bolts – the devil is in the details," he said.

Councillor O'Leary has declared a pecuniary interest on the project and his company Today's Idea Inc., has been contracted to manage the building until July 1. He is also a member of the Acton Agricultural Society.

O'Leary said he is working on the booking schedule for the facility and just completed booking negotiations with both the Georgetown and Acton Soccer Clubs.

"We've had more requests than we can possibly accommodate, but the Agricultural Society did make a commitment to the people and youth of Halton Hills, that in their own facility, they would get first shot at the time (slots) and so I've been holding back on approaching other soccer clubs," O'Leary said, acknowledging it will be a challenge to fill the building "during the daytime, during the week, during the winter."

Agricultural Society member George Henderson said the wait for the new building and the money spent on professionals will have been worth it, once it opens.

He said it took a while for Society members to come to terms with the fact they could not make the project happen by themselves.

"We thought we could do it, back in 1999 and up until 2005, we were spinning our wheels sometimes, but some of these outside people had fresh outside ideas, so that certainly helped us along. You hate to be spending money on consulting fees, but it's a fact of life these days but to get those outside opinions you have to pay for them."

Cost of growth...

Continued from page 1

with some growth.

Regional Ward 3/4 Councillor Jane Fogal echoed Bonnette's comments, adding they've never had a study showing the optimum rate of growth. Fogal said they are falling behind and not looking after the facilities that the Town already has. She said the consultant's study should offer them reassurances, or "scare the heck out of us, and I suspect the latter..."

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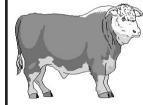


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