

# Fair building unofficially open

**By Frances Niblock**

Three hundred and fifty young Acton soccer players were the first to check out the new Acton Agricultural Society indoor soccer facility in Prospect Park on Saturday – one day after officials received the all-important occupancy permit from the Town.

The kids weren't there to play, but to have team photos taken.

That didn't stop them from racing around on the state-of-the-art artificial turf, checking out the scoreboard and the new \$1.9-million building.

On Friday, as building inspectors carried out final checks, project manager David Dautovich said getting the occupancy permit from the Town is a "milestone."

"Then the building is officially in possession of the Acton Agricultural Society and that is a very big deal," Dautovich said, adding work continues on the parking lot, landscaping and any deficiencies they find.

"The office furniture is coming in, the protective pads for the playing service are coming and we're close to being able to play soccer on this surface," he said, adding the first game

is expected to be an exhibition match at 11 a.m. on Saturday, prior to a cheque presentation ceremony from Trillium Foundation, which granted the Society \$100,000, to help pay for artificial turf.

Interim facility manager Michael O'Leary, a Town councillor whose company, Today's Ideas Inc., has been hired by the society to open the facility, said everyone involved should be very proud.

"The Town has been very generous in extending a mortgage for lack of a better word – it's a long-term loan – and also the land."

"In 10 years when the loan is paid off, it will be basically zero taxpayers' dollars invested in this building," O'Leary said, adding public-private partnerships are the only way that cash-strapped municipalities can build similar facilities.

Acton's Tracey Ferguson, who brought her three boys to have their soccer pictures taken, had a suggestion.

"This turf is so soft, I'd like to come here in the winter to run when it's cold and slippery outside. This would be great for my knees," Ferguson said.

When she first heard about the building, Ferguson thought Acton needed more ice surfaces for hockey, but now she's happy to hear that badminton, martial arts, field hockey, lacrosse and other sports groups are



**PERMIT TIME:** As they waited for the final inspections and occupancy permit for the new Acton Agricultural Society/indoor soccer building on Friday, facility manager Michael O'Leary, Georgetown Soccer Club president Eugene Horak and project manager David Dautovich checked out the new \$1.9-million facility in Prospect Park. – Frances Niblock photo

inquiring about bookings.

Friday was the first time Eugene Horak, president of the Georgetown Soccer Club, had seen the building almost complete. He was very impressed.

"It's perfect," he said. "I wouldn't change a thing."

"This playing surface feels great, the building is bright and we'll love playing here."

Officials were taking another look at security issues after one pane of a

double-glass window in the boardroom was smashed by

vandals early last week.

The facility will be of-

ficially opened during this September's fall fair.

## Hire a student week

The Service Canada Centre for Youth (SCCY) - Georgetown will host its annual Hire A Student Week from Monday, June 11th to Friday, June 15.

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