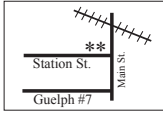


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Public meeting about new splash pad

By Frances Niblock

The focus will be on spray poles and in-ground jets on February 9 when the public is invited to an information centre into plans for a splash pad in Prospect Park, slated to open in the summer of 2010.

The plans are at a "very preliminary" stage, according to Warren Harris, the Town's manager of parks and open spaces, who said the Town wants to solicit ideas from the public for future water play op-

tions in the park, that already has a wading pool.

"It's too preliminary to say if it would be an either/or situation with the wading pool," Harris said when asked if the well used wading pool would remain in the park if a splash pad is built. He said they did some preliminary groundwork as part of this year's Acton Fall Fair to make sure that the splash pad plans don't interfere with the operation of the fair.

Harris said the need for additional water play options was identified in a 1999 park master plan and in the Town's strategic plan. The focus of the

information session will be on how to maximize the water play value, both from the initial construction and long-term operating costs.

The Town's 2010 capital budget forecast includes \$426,000 for the project.

Harris said staff would present a panel showing different water play elements, including those found at the Town's two splash pads in Georgetown, and ask for people's preferred options.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m., at the Acton arena and community centre.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

It's Groundhog Day on Monday when the varmint will be looking for its shadow. See Page 4



When local firefighters faced off against Leaf Alumni, Chuck Tysoe was there to report the action. See Pages 12 & 13



Mayor Chris White gives a mid-term report. Page 10

Town employment picture 'fairly positive'

Beadmore to be featured at museum

Halton Region Museum once again is opening its doors for the annual Heritage Day open house on Sunday, February 15, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors will be treated to two special events: a presentation on Acton's Beardmore & Co. tannery and the launch of the Museum's new Visitor Centre Art Gallery.

"I encourage everyone to visit the Halton Region Museum on February 15 to explore our past and learn about a distinctive piece of Halton's heritage - Acton's Beardmore tannery," said Gary Carr, Halton's Regional Chair. "In addition, the museum will be welcoming visitors into the brand new Art Gallery which will feature the collections of renowned Halton artists."

J. Mark Rowe, well known historian and author will illustrate Acton's leathertown history and explore the company that generated its leather producing reputation. Rosemary Simpson, a local artist from Lowville

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Cut ribbon for new arena Sunday

Sparkling new facility envy of visitors
By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Since the planning took a decade, it's only fitting that the grand opening party for the new Acton Arena and Community Centre will last all week. The official opening of the \$5.1 million facility will occur at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday. That ceremony will signal the start of a week jammed pack with events - everything from dazzling figure skating displays, fast-paced hockey games featuring young and not so young players and a full calendar of events in the Acton Seniors Recreation Centre.

For anyone who hasn't had a chance to visit the new facility there will be self-guided tours, free public skating, free refreshments on Sunday. Acton Seniors now all settled in to their 1,800 square foot centre, have events planned for each day next week and invite the public to come and check out what's going on. Scheduled events include craft demonstrations, line dancing and skating, fund and fitness classes, lots of snacks and cribbage, shuffleboard and bingo. A shuttle bus, courtesy of Tyler Transport, will make regular runs to the Arena and Community Centre from the parking lots at Tyler Transport, Queens Tire and the Christian Reformed Church from 11:30 until 4:30 on Sunday for the grand opening.

Thursday night's Celebration On Ice may prove to be the highlight of the week. Master of Ceremonies Ron McKnight will host a two and a half hour program featuring 20-minute exhibition hockey games with players from House League Tyke teams and Halton Hills Novice Girls teams. The Acton Figure Skating Club and the Halton Hills Skating Academy will showcase their talents with performances and the night will wrap up with a hockey game that will pit the Acton Froud All Stars Team against the Acton Juvenile Rep team - game time 9:35 p.m.



UNITED FELLOWSHIP: The congregations of almost all of Acton's churches gathered at the Acton Legion on Sunday for the 1998 Service of Christian Unity. Taking part in the service were, l-r, the Reverend Jamie Shepherd of Evangelical Pentecostal Tabernacle, the Rev. Shawn Bris of Bethel Christian Reformed Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church lay reader Helen Fowler, the Very Reverend Lois Wilson (former moderator of the United Church of Canada), the Rev. Mark Tiller of St. Alban's Anglican Church, the Rev. Bob Matton of Trinity United Church and the Rector Emrys Jenkins of Churchill Community Church. - Frances Niblock photo

Unity service draws hundreds

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner
A crowd of over 700 people attended the annual service to celebrate the Acton church's unity in diversity. Wilson, who stressed that their differences should not prevent them from hearing others, was aware that the congregations of all but two of Acton's churches at the Service of Christian Unity on Sunday at the Acton Legion. Comments and Wilson's theology triggered their decision. "The congregation voted not to take part in the service, given the speaker's (Wilson's) theology," explained Cullen in an interview on Saturday. "We decided to bow out this year, but we look forward to uniting with the rest of the churches next year for the ecumenical service," Cullen said. "We've gone through all the discussions with all the churches and there's a good feeling, or an understanding anyway, about each other's position and an awareness that next year we'll have in-depth discussions and we'll go forward," Cullen said. Captain Larry Jennings of the Salvation Army, Acton Corps, said the congregation made a unanimous decision not to take place in the annual unity service. "We have some problems with her (Lois Wilson's) theology and a fear of what she might say that will affect members of our congregation," Jennings explained in an interview on Saturday. "She is a very feminist person and along with not only what she says, or what she's thinking as a very liberal person. Also it's to do with what the moderator of the United Church has said as well about Christ." Jennings said the decision not to take part in the service was a one-time thing because they didn't want to "compromise" what they believe about the deity of Christ and the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, coequal in power and glory. Wilson recounted that as a schoolgirl she used to throw joy snowballs at Catholic students across from her school because they were the "enemy." "That seems a long time ago now, thank God. The Holy Spirit has dragged us kicking and screaming into a new relationship with our

Continued on page 2

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT: This issue of The New Tanner starts the 12th year of publication. The first front page is shown here. There's more on Page 6.

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