



ACHIEVERS: Junior Achievement is active in many Canadian Schools and is now working its magic in Acton at St. Joseph Catholic School. On Thursday, Feb 12, members of the local Halton Business community brought the real world of work to classrooms from Gr. 3 to Gr. 8. Junior Achievement fosters the entrepreneurial spirit of youth by inspiring them to start a business, define a carrier plan and make better business and educational communities says the school's Vice Principal Marg Warnels. Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette was there to offer encouragement. - submitted photo

Police program is aimed at breaking down youth barriers

Halton Regional Police Service has a new program for Acton youth aimed at better understanding the role of the community's police officers, also intending to give police a chance to learn more about the challenges facing Acton youth today.

In community partnership with the Links2Care Off The Wall Youth Centre, the Halton Police will be holding a

monthly draw for youth program participants to win a Ride-Along with Acton Village Constable Chris Borak. It will be followed by an open discussion with other Youth Program participants at Off The Wall Youth Centre located at 47 Mill Street East, Acton.

Interested youth (ages 12-19 years) may enter their name for the draw at Off The Wall Youth Centre

during their drop in hours on Thursdays 3:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

"The Ride Along project is a great opportunity to dispel common misconceptions of both youth and police. By breaking down barriers and bridging the gap we are fostering a better community," says Amanda Kostjuk, Links2Care Youth Services

"Hopefully enough youth

are willing to be seen with their local cop so that I can gain a better understanding of the challenges Acton youth are facing in today's society. Also, if they're willing to see what is required of me in my daily duties, I believe a common understanding can only lead to good things," Constable Chris Borak explained.

Town wants to take sting out of SLAPP

Sting of SLAPP suits

Halton Hills councillors want to help take the sting out of SLAPP (strategic lawsuits against public participation) suits by supporting Bill 138, a private member's bill to counter lawsuits used to silence objections to development.

Currently, individuals and groups can be sued for millions of dollars if they oppose unwanted developments in their communities and the Bill would allow such lawsuits to be dismissed at an early stage.

It would indemnify defendants for costs incurred and allow additional costs for damages to be awarded to them by a court or tribunal. A significant mechanism in the bill would stop governments and tribunals from proceeding with the planning process where SLAPP tactics exist.

Ward Two Councillor Joan Robson brought a Notice of Motion to Council recently, asking for support for Bill 138 which she said goes right to the very root of democracy.

"When we hear that some

developers have used very strong bullying tactics to shut the environmental groups up and to bully their way through the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) then it speaks badly of the whole process," Robson said, adding we're fortunate in this country to be able to be able

to address issues democratically.

Robson's Notice of Motion calls on Queen's Park to pass Bill 138 - it has had first reading - and asks the Premier, local MPs and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to support the legislation.

Listening to you.

Come and talk to your MPP, Ted Arnott.

Saturday, February 28th

Dufferin Rural Heritage Community Centre
30 Park Avenue, Acton

Call 1-800-265-2366
to book an appointment

TED ARNOTT, MPP
WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS



New website

The new Halton District School Board website (www.hdsb.ca) is officially up and running, featuring a compilation of relevant information for parents, students, staff and members of the community.

This fresh and dynamic new look for the Board's corporate website is the culmination of months of review and design, focus group input and building, in an effort to make the new website the "go-to source" of relevant information for the Halton District School Board.

One of the newest additions to the website, is improved ability to find information. Visitors will experience simplified site navigation, new key word searches as well as searches within specific areas of the website.

Visitors will be able to access "RSS" feeds so they can be made aware of when new content is posted. Visitors to the Board's new website at www.hdsb.ca are welcome to forward suggestions or comments to webmaster@hdsb.ca

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