



COLOURFUL CANVAS: This exquisite artwork by Michael Jay - inspired by Scotland and Ireland is on display in the Acton Ju Jitsu window on Mill St. - Marie Shadbolt Photo

Citizen of the year dinner could be newspaper reunion

By Frances Niblock

You can bet that the Rotary Cub of Acton's awards ceremony to honour Hartley Coles, its Citizen of the Year, will be on the record - many of the journalists and newspaper staff that Coles worked with over five decades in Halton Hills will be at the event at the Blue Springs Golf Club tomorrow (Friday.)

Initially, there was some question to whether the honouree would accept the award. Coles first comment to the Rotary official who informed him of the award was, "Isn't there anyone else?"

"That's not a common response," said Citizen of the Year committee chair Brian Robertson, but it is indicative of the modest nature of the winners since the award was

first established in 1958 by the Chamber of Commerce. It was taken over by the Acton Lions Club and now the Rotary Club of Acton administers the annual event designed to recognize people that make the community a better place to live.

Robertson said tomorrow's dinner and ceremony is shaping up to be one of the better ones in past years - more than 145 tickets had been sold by Tuesday, and Robertson said he expected a flurry of calls for last minute requests.

He said by the look of ticket sales, the event would be a bit of an Acton Free Press reunion - Coles began his newspaper career as a type setter with the Free Press and rose through the ranks to editor before he retired. He then acted as a newspaper consultant before taking over

the reins of The New Tanner 12 years ago.

A number of local citizens - Dave and Kay Dills, Father Bob Bulbrook, Mac Sprowl and former resident Denis Gibbons - will reminisce about their relationships with Coles and best wishes and certificates will be presented from federal, provincial and local politicians.

Coles name will be inscribed on Rotary's large Citizen of the Year plaque that hangs in the arena, and he will receive a small plaque.

"This ceremony is a nice small town tradition - it's good to honour someone who puts something into the community without expecting anything in return," Robertson said, adding at least 10 former awardees will be on hand to honour Coles.

Halton to freeze taxes in its budget for 2010

Halton politicians want a zero per cent tax increase and a rate freeze in the 2010 budget and have approved a Budget Directions report that will have those results.

"Halton Region residents are facing some real financial challenges in the current economic recession and do not need the added pressure of a tax increase," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr. "The strategies outlined in the Budget Directions report are consistent with the Region's strong and prudent financial planning principles and will ensure residents continue to receive the high quality services they expect."

To achieve the zero per cent tax freeze, the Region could freeze the staff complement at 2008 levels, temporarily finance some programs including the increased demand for social services through the Region's Recession and Stabilization Reserves and other cost containment measures.

"Our main priority is to ensure that service levels are maintained in 2010," Carr said. "This community is growing, there is a demand for service and we intend to maintain those service levels."

Over the past three years Halton Region has been able to keep taxes low with a combined tax increase of less than one percent while still enhancing programs and services including enhanced waste diversion programs, introduction of Halton's Air Quality program in 2008, a landfill gas capture project

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, implementation of 211 and 311, \$2-million for additional subsidized child care spaces, the addition of 15.6 paramedics to Halton EMS since 2007 and increases in the amount invested in Halton's roads program from an approved budget of \$53 million in 2004 to a budget of \$115

million in 2009.

Halton Regional staff will now prepare the 2010 Budget and Business Plan which will be discussed at the Budget Review Committee on December 14 and at Regional Council on December 16.

A video of today's Council meeting is available online at www.halton.ca.

Acton technology students continue to win awards

The technological design skills of Acton High School students continues to impress judges - most recently those involved in a contest sponsored by the Canadian Council for Socially Responsible Design to promote social responsibility.

Although the contest was open to Canadian design professionals and newly graduated design students (2009) who were asked to submit their socially responsible designs and concepts, Acton teacher Norbert Axtmann decided that the award-winning work his students did last fall on an affordable, accessible and green townhouse, fit the contest criteria and he resubmitted the material. The design had already earned the students the grand prize in the Region of Halton "Be a Hero" contest.

The Socially responsible Design Exhibit judges were "really impressed" with the

professionalism of the submission, especially since it was not a post-secondary project and selected it as a winning entry.

Along with a \$200 honorarium the students' work earned the honour of being displayed with other winning entries at the Toronto Pearson International Airport until October 31, on view for the 7,000 international travellers who use the airport daily.

Town Digest

Continued from page 2

The priority plans may be scrapped if the Town is successful in its bid for federal and provincial stimulus grants as twinning the Acton arena is the only "shovel ready" project, as required by the grant programs and that project would be done first, if the grant is approved.

The Task Force's report is available at www.haltonhills.ca

Notice of approval for the Halton District School Board's EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Halton District School Board passed an Education Development Charges By-law on the 20th day of May, 2009, under Section 257.54 of the *Education Act*; AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal the By-law to the Ontario Municipal Board under Section 257.65 of the *Act* by filing with the Secretary of the Halton District School Board on or before the 29th day of June, 2009, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

The By-law comes into force on June 8, 2009. The education development charges imposed by the By-law are as follows:

- \$1,755.00 per dwelling unit in regard to residential development
- \$0.49 per square foot of gross floor area in regard to non-residential development

The education development charges are imposed on all development of lands in the Region of Halton. Accordingly, a key map showing the location of the lands subject to the By-law is not provided as part of this notice.

A copy of the complete By-law is available for examination in the offices of the Board located at 2050 Guelph Line, JW Singleton Education Centre, Burlington, Ontario, during regular office hours or on the Board website at www.hdsb.ca.

Notice of a proposed by-law amending the education development charge by-law or passage of such an amending by-law is not required to be given to any person or organization, other than to certain clerks of municipalities or secretaries of school boards, unless the person or organization gives the secretary of the Board a written request for notice or any amendments to the education development charge by-law and has provided a return address.

Dated at the City of Burlington this 21st day of May 2009

Halton District School Board



Bruce Jones, Chair of the Board
Halton District School Board

Wayne Joudrie, Director of Education
Halton District School Board

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