

# Tree planted for Light Up the Hills



**TREE TIME:** This 25-foot Colorado Blue Spruce tree was planted near the Acton Sports Park last Thursday and will be lit up with holiday decorations next year as the Light Up The Hills group expands its efforts to Acton. Cheering on the planting were tree donator Lois Fraser, Jeff Goy, Chair Gerry Kentner, Mark Taylor, Diane Chadwick and Marilyn Serjeantson. - Submitted photo

By Frances Niblock

When a warm family scene filled with a giant Christmas tree and people enjoying hot chocolate and good cheer popped into Gerry Kentner's consciousness two years ago, little did the former Acton resident know that she was starting a tradition that would spread throughout Halton Hills.

On Thursday morning, Kentner and her Light Up The Hills committee supervised the planting of a 25-foot Colorado Blue Spruce - the Tree of Hope - near the Acton arena/

community centre. It will be festooned with hundreds of lights next year as part of an annual seasonal light festival.

Last year, the first tree was planted and decorated in Dominion Gardens Park with over 50,000 energy-friendly LED lights in a celebration that brought 1,500 people to the park.

"We have a three-year expansion plan," said Light Up The Hills chair Gerry Kentner adding she hasn't had any other "visions" like the one that sparked the light event idea as she was driving by a toboggan hill one wintry

night two years ago.

The humble plan - which garnered both the Civic Pride and Business of the Year awards - has grown and within a number of years Kentner hopes to have donated trees planted and decorated in all of Halton Hills' hamlets each December 1.

"Last year, the event showed that we are a small town community. We had families and friends come to the tree lighting and next year,

the Acton tree will be lighted. We are adding new displays in Georgetown and the walks will be cleared so people can enjoy the park," Kentner said on Thursday after the planting in Acton.

In a press release, Kentner said the first phase of expansion would concentrate on raising funds and awareness in Acton so that the light displays can be installed for December 2010.

## Volunteer firefighters included in province's new work illness regulations

Ontario is making it easier for the province's volunteer and part-time firefighters and fire investigators, who suffer fire-related illnesses, to qualify for benefits under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act.

The province has established a new regulation which presumes that eight types of cancer - as well as heart injuries within 24 hours of fighting a fire or a training exercise - that are suffered by these workers

would be work-related, unless proven otherwise. The same presumptions currently apply to full-time firefighters in Ontario.

The regulation will apply to volunteer and part-time firefighters and fire investigators from the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal who meet certain conditions and to diseases diagnosed or heart injuries sustained on or after January 1, 1960.

In Ontario, there are

about 11,000 full-time firefighters, 19,000 volunteer firefighters and 220 part-time firefighters. Forty-six

fire investigators from the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal are on active duty.

## Meteor shower meet

Weather permitting, the Acton astronomy club will help reveal the wonders of the Leonid Meteor Shower on Tuesday (November 17) at Sir Donald Mann Park.

This annual meteor shower will be at its peak and there will be a New Moon, so the sky will be dark, and weather permitting, there will be a great show.

Come between 8:30 and 9 p.m., dress warmly and bring something to sit on and a hot drink. No special viewing aids are required, except a clear sky, so watch the weather.

### 10 Years Ago

- Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh said the Halton District School Board should be dissolved because "irresponsible" trustees refuse to close schools with low enrolments.

- Halton Hills customers could face a \$240 a year increase in electricity costs if the Town proceeds with its proposal to restructure the company from a public utility to a corporation.

## Looking Back



- Town council asked Transport Canada to reassess safety at all 14 level rail crossings following a fatal train-gravel truck crash on the Fourth Line, south of Highway 7.

### Five Years Ago

- Modern technology led to the safe recovery of a mildly autistic Acton teen who went missing for

22 hours after he headed out for a bike ride.

- Community users may be able to afford to use Halton schools for after-hours activities now that

the province introduced a new \$20-million Community Use of School Program.

- Acton skater Rebecca Nelles and her partner Dylan Simpson from Kitchener-Waterloo won a Bronze medal at the Western Ontario Skate Canada sectionals.

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