



**PIZZA FUNDRAISER:** Robert Little School teacher Ken Crozier took a well-deserved break after helping cook and serve at the New Orleans Pizza's fundraiser for the school on Tuesday. Half of the evening's proceeds will be donated to help the school recover from last month's vandalism spree.  
- Marie Shadbolt photo

# Town Digest

**BIA deferral**

Just what does a businessperson in Georgetown, or Acton for that matter, get in exchange for the mandatory annual fee to businesses located within a BIA or Business Improvement Area – geographic areas in Georgetown and Acton with a business association that uses members' money to promote and beautify the downtown.

That questions is answered for Robert Arsenault of Fred's Towing, Town councillors will put a hold on voting on requested expansion of the Georgetown BIA that would add 21 more businesses  
Arsenault said many businesses are asking what value it is to belong to the BIA and asked for more time to study the issue.

At a recent council meeting Town politicians agreed to defer voting on the proposed expansion until Arsenault has the information he wants.  
Georgetown BIA members pay \$651 per \$100,000 of assessment – in Arsenault's case that would be \$2,200 a year.  
Council recently approved an expansion of the Acton BIA boundaries to include Prospect Park.

## Halton earns Economic Development Awards

Halton Region's Economic Development Division received two prestigious marketing awards at the 53rd annual Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) Conference held February 2-4 in Toronto. Halton Region won for best Economic Development Annual Report publication, as well as the top Newsletter Publication for its Quarterly reports. The annual Economic Review and Quarterly

Reports highlight business investment and economic activity in Halton Region.  
The EDCO awards ceremony honours winners and honourable mentions for their efforts in promoting their communities for location and tourism opportunities. Economic Development initiatives are also judged as part of the process.  
"I am very proud of our staff for having earned this recognition from EDCO,"

said Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair. "Halton's Economic Development Division works very hard to promote and strengthen economic growth and prosperity in the region. Getting the word out about the benefits of locating a business in Halton, as well as providing a regular pulse check on how we are doing, is an important part of our economic development strategy."  
The Halton Region Economic Review promotes

Halton Region as a location of choice for business by highlighting Halton's competitiveness in attracting non-residential development. The review also includes labour force and industry statistics, recent economic activity, and business investments.  
Halton's Economic Development Quarterly Reports provide a regular communication to Regional Council, Halton residents and the business community

about the performance of Halton's economy. Quarterly Reports focus on new business investments and development activity across the region, including building permit information, Halton enterprise data, as well as reporting of major Halton Regional activities and policies which impact on the business community in Halton.  
Expert judges reviewed all of the entries which covered everything from

promotional brochures to infrastructure development projects. Judges from specialized areas of expertise judged specific categories.  
"This year, over 130 entries were judged," said 2009 EDCO President Lauren Millier. "The competition allows local communities to see just how they stack up against other municipalities when it comes to promoting location, investment and tourism opportunities."

## Food drive at Acton Curves

Club offers freebies for existing and potential members.

Local women are encouraged to show their philanthropic strength by participating in the annual Acton Curves Food Drive. Even though donating food to families in need is its own reward, the club will collect non-perishable items and monetary donations for food banks in the local area. "The goal is for the community to come together to help families in need," said Andy Soumbos of Curves of Acton  
"At the core of our business is the message that women are stronger when they rally together, and that is the point we hope to bring home with our food drive, we want to show our community just how powerful the generosity of our members can be."  
All members who donate a bag of groceries or make a minimum donation of \$30 during March will receive a reusable Curves grocery freezer bag. Non-members who join Curves from March 1 to 13 can join for free.  
Curves of Acton will take part in a company-wide contest for the most food drive donations across the

nation. Winners will receive cash prizes to be donated to their local food bank. Each year, Curves locations collectively donate millions of pounds of food to feed the hungry.  
"We hope women in the Acton area will come together and participate in this initiative," added Soumbos. "Even if you're not thinking about joining a gym, you can still drop off your donations. There are so many families - right here in our own community - who need our help."

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*It's that time of year again!*  
**Citizen of the Year Nominations**  
The Acton Rotary Club is seeking nominations for **Acton's Citizen of the Year**  
*Nominations with supporting explanation to be mailed to:*  
**Citizen of the Year, c/o Acton Rotary Club**  
Box 22, Acton, L7J 2M2  
or Email dbrobert@sympatico.ca  
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