

GREAT GEORGE: Veteran Acton Scouter George Henderson received his 40 year award as an active leader with Scouts Canada at the 1st Acton Scouting's annual Baden Powell potluck last week. Henderson, with Scouter Patricia Daleman, has been a leader in almost all branches of scouting (Cubs, Scouts, Rovers) in Acton and Georgetown, and became the Group Commissioner for Acton in 2003. Over the years, for his excellent service Henderson has been recognized with The Medal of Merit (1997), The Award of Good Service (1982), The Queen's Jubilee Medal (2002) and The Centennial Commemorative Medal (2007). - Submitted photo

How to keep kids 'enthused and exhausted' during March Break

By Frances Niblock

Cosmic bowling, drumming classes, lots of sports -Acton's March Break calendar is full of fun and fitness for students who want to do more than just sleep during the third week of this month.

The cosmic bowling is courtesy of the youth group at Bethel Christian Reformed Church during its March Break Madness event on Friday the 12th, a "marathon" event" featuring a mall rally, mini-putt and pizza.

All are welcome to the Madness, aimed at kids in high school. Tickets are \$25.

Bethel is also staging a Drummer's Clinic from March 16 to 18, with two-hour classes for up to 25 boys and girls, aged 12 to 15. The program runs 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Pre-registration is required, but no drumming experience is needed and drums are provided. For more information contact Andrew at youth@actoncrc.com or 519-853-2121.

The Town's Recreation and Parks department offers a variety of exciting ways for parents to keep their kids "enthused and exhausted" during March Break, including its DASH multisport program. It teaches the fundamentals of good sportsmanship while introducing young kids to a number of sports.

'It's a sports workshop, it's a non-competitive way to try out a program," said Mandy Keller, Town's recreation supervisor of community programs on Friday, adding its one of the Town's most popular programs.

"It teaches the skills that are needed to play all sports at an introductory level," Keller said, adding they've had good enrolment in the program that runs year-round in Acton on Thursdays.

On March 16, the Town is offering its DASH sports program for five-and-six year olds from 1 to 2:30 p.m., and again from 2:30 to 4 p.m., for four-to-six year olds.

At press time, some of the 40 spots for the DASH program in Acton were still available. For information call the March Break hotline 905-873-2601, ext.

The Town is not offering its Splash and Fun program at the Acton pool this year because not one person registered several years ago, but you can still swim, for free in Acton.

Thanks to Tim Hortons there is free swimming at the Acton pool from 1:30 to 3 p.m. daily and thanks to the Rotary Clubs of Acton and Georgetown and the Optimist Club, there is free skating during March Break weekdays from 2 to 3:20 p.m. from March 15 to 19.

High praise for Town on free trade

By Frances Niblock

Town Council's integral role in helping Canada and the U.S.A. reach a tentative deal that would exempt Canadian companies from "Buy American" clauses in the U.S. government's economic stimulus package was applauded by Georgetown business owner John Hayward, of Hayward and Gordon, at a recent council meeting.

Recently, Canada and the U.S. announced a tentative deal that would give the provinces access

37 states. Hayward was the first to say the words "free trade" and "protectionism" to Mayor Rick Bonnette and councillors who quickly grasped the extent of the issue and decided to do something more than complain.

As Hayward said, thanks for making the future "more secure."

He told Council that its involvement in the issue was "one of the most significant factors" in reaching the trade deal.

"The Halton Hills in-

procurement contracts in and international attention and directly influenced the political agenda of our Federal government. There is no doubt in my mind that an agreement would not exist today without the actions of the mayor and his council," Hayward said, adding the experience was a wonderful example of cooperation between business, government and industry associations, all working to a common

Looking back at those who questioned what role a municipal council could take in an international trade dispute, Hayward said council's own trade policy and its work to involve the Canadian Federation of Municipalities were key.

"We don't often get the opportunity to stand up for our convictions and really see some results from it that are very satisfying when they come to pass," Hayward said.

In return, Mayor Bonnette thanked Hayward for his guidance, praise echoed by Acton Councillor Clark Somerville who thanked Hayward for keeping the issue on the front burner.

Regional/Ward Two Councillor Jane Fogal said the outcome shows what one person can do when they see something

wrong and want to make a change.

Earlier that night, Bonnette read from a certificate sent by Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott that thanked Council for its "determined willingness to take a strong stand" that was heard in Washington and across North America.





