

New home for Globe

The Town continues to help non-profit groups save important local heritage buildings with grants, cheap long term nominal fee leases and by conveying ownership of the buildings to citizen groups.

Like the deal that helped Heritage Acton rehabilitate Acton's Town Hall Centre, the Town will deed the former Georgetown Armoury to Georgetown Armoury Musical Productions so it can be restored. The Georgetown Fairgrounds land where the Armoury sits will be leased to Globe for 20 years at \$2 per year with an automatic renewal every five years.

Globe spokesperson, Acton business owner Lois Fraser said she was "beyond excited" to finalize the deal because it seemed like a "pipe dream" that Globe would find a home. Globe has already put \$200,000 into the building. Like it did for Heritage Acton, the Town will redirect almost

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\$30,000 to Globe – money initially earmarked to demolish the Armoury.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said like the Acton Town Hall, Globe has stepped forward to raise money to preserve local heritage and history.

Globe supporters said thanks in a unique way – singing "Thanks for the Armoury" a humorous re-write of the Bob Hope classic *Thanks for the Memory* that went like this:

Thanks for the Armoury,

As you can plainly see, we're happy as can be, To have the luck to get a home instead of "wait and see"

How lovely it is! Thanks for the Armoury It's really looking great, inside the Fairgrounds gate,

We promise you we'll all

work hard to keep it in this state,

How lovely it is!

KIDS: *We are some kids from the Youth Group And we adore anything musical,*

Next spring we'll be putting on Seussical, Our parents too, will vote for you!

So thanks for the Armoury,

At last we have a home, a place to call our own, A place where we can settle and from which we'll never roam,

And thank you so much!

Contractor help

The Town will adopt "Pay Assurance Provisions" on a two-year-trial basis to provide additional help to ensure "small family-run contracting companies" that put underground services and roads in subdivisions, are paid for their work if a

developer goes bankrupt.

Lobbyist Steve Mahoney, appearing for the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Construction Association, said well over 20 municipalities, including Halton Region, have adopted the Pay Assurance Provisions. He stressed taxpayers' dollars would not be used, but payment, if necessary, would come from the developer's Letter of Credit, once everyone else had been paid.

Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary, who said he was "nervous" about getting a public body involved in private contracts, was told that his suggestion of contractors taking out insurance to cover any loss would drive up house prices.

With assurances from staff that the new condition in the development agreement is only a trial, and will not add to staff's workload, councillors agreed to add Pay Assurance Provisions to its subdivision agreements.

Free eye exams and glasses

The Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) has launched a program to provide free eyeglasses along with an eye exam by local optometrists to all Halton junior kindergarten children. The "Eye See...Eye Learn" program will be offered for the first time to Junior Kindergarten students in Halton during the 2010/2011 school year. The OAO is partnering with the Halton Catholic and public school boards along with other local community agencies.

Through the Eye See... Eye Learn program all Junior Kindergarten students in the participating regions are eligible to receive an OHIP-insured eye exam by an Ontario Association of Optometrist member, and a free pair of brand new, high quality eyeglasses should they require them. The program is completely free for parents. The Eye See...Eye Learn program is intended to remove all barriers from children receiving proper eye care, allowing them to reach their full potential in school.

The Eye See...Eye Learn program was created to address the troubling Ontario statistic that showed in the school year ending in 2009, only 25 per cent of children had been examined by an optometrist between the ages of five and nine years of age. This is in sharp contrast to only seven per cent

of children under five that are seen by an optometrist. This is despite the fact that annual eye examinations are covered by OHIP for children 19 years of age and under.

"Too often children don't complain to their parents about not seeing well because they don't know what normal vision is supposed to look like," said Dr Shirley Ha, an optometrist. "Children can also be labelled with behavioural

or learning disabilities because they are unable to see or focus on the work when all they require is a pair of eyeglasses. An eye exam can give parents the piece of mind of knowing whether their child can see well or not."

Halton District School Board Superintendent of Education Mark Zonneveld agreed. "Children, who cannot see the board, focus on a picture or follow words in a book will

struggle to achieve their full learning potential. We have an opportunity through the Eye See...Eye Learn program to educate parents about the critical link between vision and learning."

For more information on the Eye See...Eye Learn program, please visit the Ontario Association of Optometrists' web site at www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca or call 1-800-540-3837 for more information.

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