



SLIP AND SLIDE: This group of giggling Acton girls repeatedly raced their way down the snowy hill at the Wallace Street Park last Thursday, thoroughly enjoying their Christmas holidays. – Frances Niblock photo

High school information

High school information evenings are scheduled during the month of January to provide an opportunity for parents to find out more about high school education. These information evenings are for parents of students who will attend Grade 9 in September 2011.

Discussion topics will

include an overview of the Grade 9 program, services for students and diploma requirements.

Locally the meeting is at Acton High School on Wednesday, January 12 with a large group presentation at 7 p.m. There will be a small group questions and answers session at 7:45

p.m., and tours begin at 8:30 p.m.

Parents should attend the information evening at their home school (the school designated for their community). To find out which is their designated high school, parents should refer to the Halton District School Board website

at www.hdsb.ca. School Attendance Boundary information can be found under the tab, "About Us" then the "School Boundary Maps Online" link found on the left-side navigation bar.

For more information about the Information Evenings at secondary schools, please contact the school office. In Acton, the phone number is 519-853-2920.

Corporate giving

The Town's "helter skelter" approach to corporate giving prompted Holcim Canada, parent company of Acton quarry owner Dufferin Aggregates, to ask for a Town reception in the New Year to talk about corporate giving.

Holcim, which has generously donated cash and aggregate to the Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre, Acton library, Acton skateboard park and splash pad to name a few projects, told the Town recently that it wants to continue to be a good corporate citizen, but can't satisfy all the requests it gets for help.

A staff report said Holcim's Andrea Bourrie, Director of Planning and Regulatory Affairs, asked for the reception so all corporate givers will know what projects they may be asked to help, with cash or in-kind service, and if the Town and partners are "maximizing the available return on corporate giving by not just concentrating on Holcim/Dufferin."

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said the request is "unusual" but he understands Holcim/Dufferin's request to bring together corporate givers, especially when there is a list of big-ticket items that will need fundraising.

Bonnette said a lot of companies get "hit" for donations after they've done their budgets, and "if the Town is going to be knocking on doors (for donations), that we try to let these companies know ahead of time what projects we might be seeking assistance with to keep the tax base down," Bonnette said, adding they will see if there is an "appetite" for many different corporations to projects.

Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary said he "whole heartedly" supported the mayor's comments and pointed to the donation (\$75,000) that Superior Glove made to the Acton splash pad project to mark the firm's 100th anniversary.

"...and the amount of money they donated was substantial, and I can think of three or four other companies that might be ripe for the picking in the near future," O'Leary said, adding it will allow the Town to say thank you.

At press time, Town CEO Dennis Perlin was unable to put a dollar figure to the generous donations that have been made to Town projects by local firms, but said it was "very significant."

Happy New Year!

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