

Many contributors made Discovery Centre project possible

• from DISCOVERY on page A11
enhanced services to area community groups, families and schoolchildren — more than 25,000 students visit Mountsberg each year.

The \$1.4 million project is fully accessible thanks to the addition of a lift between floors, and has twice as much space available for learning programs as the original facility.

Program instructor Jim Aikenhead said Mountsberg is a source of educa-

tion and recreation for countless families who can choose to have a picnic, go cross-country skiing or take in a birds of prey demonstration.

The new and improved visitors' centre will "allow us to continue this work and to create newer, even better experiences," he added.

The new facility houses a gift shop on the main floor. The upper level is split into two classrooms with plenty of windows to bring the outdoors in.

Lining the walls are prints — on loan from the City of Burlington — by renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman who's a former Halton resident and CH Foundation director.

A number of financial partners made the project possible. A \$400,000 grant from the Province was the largest chunk of funding. The Milton Community Fund was also recognized, contributing \$100,000. Other key donors are Dofasco, Douglas Grant Cockburn and Dufferin Aggregates.

The CH Foundation is still looking to raise \$30,000 to fund things like audio-visual and kitchen equipment.

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION
Conservation Halton Chair Brian Penman (left) shows a Robert Bateman print to Bill Kriesel of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and Sarah Lowe of Dufferin Aggregates. The two are major donors to Mountsberg's new Discovery Centre.

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Memorial hoped to be inspirational

• from WEST on page A11
The remainder of the funds for the memorial were covered by the members of the NCCC.

Cindy Lunau, organizing member of the NCCC and a councillor for Ward 3 said it felt good to get the memorial started.

"We've been planning this memorial with the Town of Milton for a while now and it feels good to get it started. It will be beautiful and a fitting tribute to a chairman, volunteer, friend, neighbour and mentor," she said.

West was chair of the NCCC for 11 years and generously gave his time and efforts to many groups and causes in the Nassagaweya area.

He was instrumental in building a strong relationship between the community and Halton Regional Police, initiating programs and working for the betterment of the rural community, said Tim Kingsbury, another member of the NCCC and long-time friend of West.

West passed away in November 2004. The memorial was initiated by the NCCC

shortly thereafter to commemorate West's accomplishments and inspire others to be as giving as he was, said Kingsbury.

"From the moment Mike left us, the community and the NCCC have wanted to do something to recognize this great man, his accomplishments and his legacy. It will be a permanent recognition of Mike and it will also be a reminder to the community that great things can happen if people are willing to give of themselves for public service as Mike so willingly did."

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