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SPORTS

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NEWS

Gorrud's celebrates 50th anniversary



A & E

Dancer makes national team

A Metroland Media Group publication • Vol. 151 No. 49

Thursday, August 26, 2010

100 Pages • \$1.00 (incl. G.S.T.)



GETTING READY: Staff at the new Tiger Jeet Singh Public School are busy preparing for its opening. Here Grade 3 teacher Jaime Yanke organizes her classroom with all the books, pencils and rulers for each workstation.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Minor hockey could get exemption from rental fee increase

3.1% hike approved for Town programs and facility rentals

By Christina Comisso
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Milton's 1,200 young hockey players may escape an increase in ice rental fees, while other residents who use Town facilities and programs are looking at a 3 per cent hike come 2011.

Milton Minor Hockey Association (MMHA) president Chris Webb asked council to consider freezing the 2011 youth affiliated ice rental fees at the 2010 rate during Monday's council meeting.

His request comes after a staff report recommending a 3.1 per cent increase in 2011 user fee rates.

"I can stand here today and tell you that hockey registration in Ontario is declining due to costs, it is. I can tell you that Milton and the MMHA face lower registration as a percentage of population in hockey than in surrounding (communities), it does," said Webb, who was elected MMHA president in May.

"Parents are finding it harder and harder to shoulder the ever-rising costs associated with hockey," he continued, adding that 80 to 85 per cent of the association's fees go directly to ice costs and during the 2009/2010 hockey season MMAH paid \$530,000 to the Town through facility charges.

As of September 1, the rate for hourly ice rentals for youth affiliated groups will be \$158.50. In comparison, the affiliated hourly pool rental rate for one to 30 swimmers is \$80.65, the youth affiliated rate for a softball diamond in town is \$2.69 per hour (plus \$10.30 for lights) and the youth hourly rate for a soccer field is \$3.27 (plus \$11.60 for lights).

Webb said with the introduction of the HST combined with the increase in user fees planned for next year, the MMHA is facing an 11.1 per cent — or \$60,000 — increase for ice rental.

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• see LOOKING on page A3

Concerns raised over proposed wind turbine project

Area residents worried about size and noise of turbines at sports centre

By Christina Comisso
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Will Milton become a hub for green technology?

At last Thursday's public meeting regarding a potential wind turbine project, both Milton Hydro and the Town stressed a need to promote energy conservation, while some residents expressed hesitation and concern toward the green technology.

Milton Hydro hosted the meeting to answer questions about two vertical wind turbines, which — if approved by council — would be situated outside Milton Sports Centre.

The turbines would also hold two advertising banners, in which the Town would receive 15 per cent of the gross revenues from the advertising sales.

The pilot project is in response to the Green Energy Act, which mandates that municipalities adopt renewable energy practices.

"(The province) really has mandated all the utilities to do programs both in conservation of electricity, but also the development of renewable energy. The Town is also quite interested in bringing the green economy to Milton," said Frank Lasowski, president of Milton Hydro.

However, residents from the surrounding neighbourhood were worried about the size and noise generated from the two proposed turbines.

According to the Toronto-based wind and solar company manufacturing the turbines, the state-of-the-art product was "designed to fit in

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