

Milton velodrome will leave lasting legacy, says Harnett

By Melanie Hennessey
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

The velodrome will not only put Milton on the international map, but also leave a lasting legacy in the world of sports, says a Canadian cycling guru.

That sentiment was the key message delivered to the full house at Friday morning's Breakfast with the Mayor, an annual Milton Chamber of Commerce event.

Among those who spoke to the crowd at Teatro Conference and Event Centre was racing cyclist Curt Harnett, who's the Chef de Mission, or head of the Canadian sports delegation at the upcoming Pan Am Games.

The Olympic medalist said his "dream finally came true" when the Mattamy National Cycling Centre officially opened its doors last month.

"This is a facility that I've dreamt about for 20 years," he said. "The opportunity is there to put Milton on the map. There's also great and tremendous opportunity for the sport of cycling here."

He noted that cycling is an ideal sport to take advanced athletes to the next level.

"This facility is the perfect breeding ground to make them the next Olympic champion or rider in Tour de France," he said.

And Harnett should know. The former hockey player got into cycling as a way to stay in shape during the off-season. Even after he was drafted by the London Knights hockey team, he decided to trade his stick in for a bicycle permanently and then won an Olympic medal in cycling the following year.

"It's that kind of opportunity that the Town of Milton has now presented to Canadians," he said.

He went on to dub Milton as "the hub of cycling," noting he and many others flock to the area as a cycling destination.

It's so beautiful and majestic here. It's the perfect venue for this fantastic facility," he said.

While the Pan Am Games haven't happened yet, Town Director of Community Services Jennifer Reynolds reported that the \$56-million velodrome is already drawing the interest of cyclists and local residents.

She said between January 13 and February 4, 730 cyclists registered for programs at the velodrome, with 377 on a waiting list already. More than 130 cycling memberships have also been sold, and 843 bikes have been rented.

"The majority of drop-in rides each day have been sold out, including weekday morning and lunch time session," she said.

Reynolds noted the walking/running track inside the velodrome is also a very popular feature, with 249 annual memberships sold with-



Curt Harnett was the keynote speaker at the Breakfast with the Mayor Friday. File photo by Graham Paine / Metroland West Media Group

in the first two days. The gymnasium space at the new facility is also attracting many local sports teams, she said.

When it comes to the Pan Am Games, Reynolds encouraged those in attendance at the breakfast to welcome athletes and visitors to the community and build on the Games' schedule of events to entice people to stay in Milton.

Mayor Gord Krantz was also on hand to share his annual "state of the union" address, which emphasized the importance of maintaining "the vision for growth" in Milton.

"A key principle is balanced growth," he said. "A strong ratio of residential to non-residential assessment has been maintained, and that results in a favourable residential tax rate for Miltonians."

Looking ahead over the coming year, Krantz said local residents can expect to see ground broken for the Milton District Hospital expansion in the spring, progress on a variety of infrastructure projects, continued progress of the Milton Education Village Innovation Centre and the opening of the Derry Green Business Park, to name a few initiatives.

Krantz wrapped up the breakfast by declaring Harnett an honorary citizen of Milton.

Active Green + Ross

COMPLETE TIRE & AUTO CENTRE

Get the tires that get you to the fun.

Visit The Tire Experts® for all your winter tire needs.

aeroplan



WINTER TIRE CLEARANCE SALE EVENT!



CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR CLEARANCE PRICES
WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD ON TIRES!

* Winter Tire Clearance Sale Event: While Quantities Last, Remaining In-Stock Winter Tires Only. See Store For Details.

\$10 OFF
ANY...
Up To \$50 Savings

- Maintenance Tune-up
- Transmission Service
- Fuel Injection Service
- Power Steering Service
- Coolant System Service

WITH THIS COUPON.
Expires Mar. 31, 2015.

Coupon specials cannot be combined with any other offer/coupon promotion.

DieHard BATTERIES

- DieHard 60
- Up to 455 cold Cranking Amps
- 60 Month Total Warranty
- 3 Month Free Replacement Warranty

\$69.95*
from With Trade-In

* A \$20 Recycling Deposit Refundable with trade of your old battery.

Castrol

OIL CHANGE



NEW CAR WARRANTY APPROVED

WITH THIS COUPON

Includes:

- 1 oil filter
- up to 5 litres of 5W30, 5W20, or 10W30 Castrol GTX motoroil
- lubrication as required
- 30 point courtesy check
- Free Battery Inspection

Our Invitation To Meet You!

Reg. Price \$39.95
\$29.95

Expires Mar. 31, 2015.

* Hazardous Material charge - Add \$3.98.

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!

610 Martin St. (Hwy 25)

(Just South of Hwy 401, next to McDonald's)

905-636-7666

email: 610@activegreenross.com

Monday to Friday 7am-7pm, Saturday 8am-5pm

www.activegreenross.com

There's no better place to buy your tires & service your vehicle!



Accredited Test & Repair Facility

aeroplan

© Aeroplan is a registered trademark of Airmo Canada Inc.