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Canada's new Government delivers results for children and taxpayers

by Hon. Peter Van Loan, MP York-Simcoe

On January 1st, the Children's Fitness Tax Credit came into effect to help Canadian parents with the cost of organized sports. Parents understand that regular physical activity is good for their children. At the same time, parents could use a hand with the rising cost of organized sports.

The Children's Fitness Tax Credit will help make it possible for more young people in York Simcoe to be involved in sport and

physical activity while giving families and taxpayers a break. I am pleased that we are delivering on this important commitment and that children involved in a broad range of activities will benefit.

As former Minister for Sport, I encourage parents to take advantage of the Children's Fitness Tax Credit by getting their kids involved in an organized activity. The tax credit is available on up to \$500 per child in registration and membership fees. This measure will help parents offset some of the

costs and start children down the road to a lifetime of healthy, active living.

The credit will apply to an ongoing, supervised program, for children under the age of 16, in which substantially all of the activities undertaken include a significant amount of physical activity that contributes to cardio-respiratory endurance, plus one or more of:

- muscular strength,
- muscular endurance,
- flexibility, and
- balance.

Typical sports that would qualify would include hockey, soccer, lacrosse, football, figure skating and swimming, just to name a few.

Substantial additional support will be provided to children eligible for the disability tax credit to recognize the unique barriers they face in becoming more active.

Studies show that regular physical activity has many positive effects on children, including balanced growth and development and improved physical fitness. Through this tax credit, we are helping chil-

dren get into the habit of regular physical activity. It is our hope that this tax credit will improve childhood fitness and eventually the health and well-being of our entire population.

Parents can apply for the credit when filling out their 2007 tax return. A receipt is required to claim the credit.

I'm pleased that on the children's fitness tax credit, like many other priorities, our new government is getting things done for Canadians.

Keeping in touch with Cookstown residents

by Susan Stein

Don and Wally Smith have a great way to stay in touch with their friends in Cookstown.

Don, who came for a visit from his home in Mexico, joined his brother for the Smith Brothers' 50th annual New Year's party at their old family home in Cookstown.

Some of the participants were Ken and Ida Wheeler, Peter Reid, Bruce Shellswell, David Merchant, Ken and Allan Wheeler.

As you might remember, they were the owners of Hector Smith Lumber Home Hardware Store, which they sold to Neil Currie and his partner some time ago and is now called H.Smith Home Hardware Building Centre.

Daughters of Eileen and the late Fred Mumberson of Cookstown are Suzanne and Jane.

Suzanne and her husband Jack Weinger, whose home is in Barrie, have recently returned home from a four month holiday in New Zealand.

In the past, they had enjoyed driving through Continental Europe and visiting some of the cities on their way.

Jane is a teacher at Steele Street Public School in Barrie and her husband David is a County Health Inspector.

Essa to look at offer to see Thornton parkland

By Richard Blanchard

Essa council has decided to proceed with discussions with a developer who wants to buy a section of parkland in the north east corner of the village.

Council discussed a letter from a Barrie area real estate company representing a developer last week

which asked if the 30 acre parcel was for sale.

The property's use was the subject of considerable debate several years ago when the township proposed putting a baseball diamond or soccer fields in the area.

Neighbours argued that it should be used for passive uses alone. It has

remained unused except for passive purposes since.

Councillor Rick Newlove said that township should discuss selling a portion of the property and using the funds for other recreation projects in Thornton.

"We should see what he's willing to pay. We could sell ten or 15 acres

in the northern part of the property and keep the southern part, which has a creek running through it and is zoned Environmental Protection," he said.

Council will reply to the real estate broker and see if he wants to proceed.

Essa Historical Society news Saying goodbye

New meetings start January 27th

by Florence Blanchard

The Essa Historical Society held its annual Christmas meeting at the New Penny restaurant in Cookstown.

The group has always held a yearly Christmas dinner starting at the Elmgrove Community centre in 1984.

After dinner, a business meeting was held.

Arnold Banting spoke about the events honouring Sir Frederick Banting at the Nottawasaga Inn on Nov. 18.

The historical society's motto is to preserve the past in the present for the future.

Genealogists tell us that historical societies are about events and genealogy is about people.

We are not fundraisers.

The Essa Historical Society will hold its first meeting for 2007 on

Saturday, January 27 at the Thornton Library at 1:30 p.m..

Everyone is asked to bring two or three antique items to this meeting. The topic for the meeting is "Show and Tell".

Anyone is invited to join this friendly group as we explore the past and plan future projects.

by Susan Stein

The time will come, when the community will have to say good-bye and farewell to long-time residents, who have decided to sell their homes and move: Fran Tyreman, Josephine and Lionel Dawney, and Jean Hughes. Until then all the best to all and we will stay in touch.

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