

The Chatham Daily News

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SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2008

80¢ GST Incl.

Trillium grants assist seven groups in C-K



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New school
Private school scheduled to host an open house on Tuesday

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Important addition to memorial added

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\$7 million grant for Capitol

FACILITY MAY BE OPENED BY FALL OF 2009

By **BOB BOUGHNER**
The Daily News

The 12-year-old Chatham Capitol Theatre project will be completed, thanks to a \$7 million grant from the province.

The funding, part of the government's \$450 million municipal infrastructure investment initiative (MIII), was announced Friday by Chatham-Kent Essex MPP Pat Hoy.

Theatre general manager Dan Donaldson said he's optimistic the theatre will be operational by the fall of 2009.

He said the grant allows him and his team to focus their energies and resources on operating a facility that will be a source of pride for all Chatham-Kent residents.

"We believe this day will become a turning point in what Chatham-Kent can become and we are honoured to be at the vanguard of that change," he said.

Work on the downtown Chatham performing arts centre has been ongoing for more than 12 years. Funding shortages had prevented completion of the project.

"I see today's announcement as a golden opportunity for the theatre and the municipality to forge ahead with renewed confidence," Hoy told a noon-hour media conference at the Civic

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MPP Pat Hoy



SARAH FRALEIGH PHOTO

Chatham Capitol Theatre Association president Kevin McMillan addresses theatre supporters after the announcement at city hall Friday of a \$7-million grant from the Ontario government.

Centre. "It's time to move forward," he said. "It's time to look ahead in a positive fashion."

"With this new provincial funding, we can now, beyond any doubt whatsoever, include the Capitol Theatre in the building of our local culture and our local economic future."

Hoy added: "I say, let's start building this community and this theatre together."

Hoy said applications to the MIII program totaled more than \$1 billion. Mayor Randy Hope said

funding for the theatre will allow the community to proceed with a high-profile project that directly addresses the strategic goals of developing cultural capacities, improving tourism and promoting economic growth.

"It's time to turn the page of opportunity in our municipality," he said. "We will make the theatre a success and prove the investment by the province has not been in vain."

Capitol Theatre Association board president Kevin McMillan said "honestly, there were times when we wondered whether it would ever happen, but we continued to persevere in our dream knowing it was the right thing for Chatham-Kent."

McMillan said the government announcement was "the

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Mayor Randy Hope

best possible news. "We are deeply grateful to municipal council for their courage in agreeing to make the Capitol their project of choice for this important funding pro-

gram and to the province for their foresight in funding it," he said.

McMillan described acting Chatham-Kent CAO Gerry Wolting as the "mastermind" behind the application to the province and for shepherding it every step of the way.

"This major announcement by Hoy today marks a watershed in the Chatham Capitol Theatre project," he said. "It's an enormous vote of confidence and encouragement to all of us who have laboured so hard for so many years to see

this day come to pass." McMillan said the theatre association pledges over the next 18 months to finish the work that started more than a decade ago.

"We will provide our citizens with not only a theatre of great beauty, strength and practicality, but also a new arts and entertainment engine to support the cultural, social and economical life of our community," he said.

McMillan said the theatre, because of its size and management model, belongs to everyone in Chatham-Kent.

"It is as much Highgate and Wallaceburg's theatre as it is Chatham's," he said.

See **CAPITOL**, Page 2

Earth Hour honoured

By **HEATHER TRAVIS**
The Daily News

Several local businesses are choosing to turn off or turn down their lights and appliances in observance of Global Earth Hour tonight.

Chatham-Kent Mayor Randy Hope has challenged the municipality to reduce its energy consumption during the hour of 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"The people, businesses and organizations of our community are being encouraged to join people in dozens of communities around the world in turning off all non-essential lights for that hour," said Hope in a news release.

The event was started in 2007 by the World Wildlife Fund in Sydney, Australia, in order to make a statement about global warming and climate change.

Municipal staff members were reminded to turn off non-essential lights and appliances before they left the buildings on Friday. As well, some of the remaining lights will be turned out for the hour on Saturday.

Ontario's chief energy conservation officer, Peter Love, said the provincial response to what started as a single city movement, has been "tremendous."

"There are all sorts of things

we do in our home and offices that are wasteful," he said in a phone interview Friday.

Love said 80 cities in Ontario have signed up to participate in Global Earth Day to date. Worldwide, there are 301 cities committing to conserving energy during the hour. Most people don't think about the impact of electricity use because they cannot see it, said Love.

"Whenever we make electricity, there is impact," he said. "This is going to be a chance for people to think about their wasteful habits."

Garry Symons, director of corporate services for Chatham-Kent Utility Services, said he is unsure of the number of local businesses participating in Global Earth Hour. However, he said customers can check their website on Monday to find out the impact of the lights out on personal energy use. Symons said each customer is able to reference their historical usage to compare.

The Chatham-Kent Health Alliance has asked staff to turn off lighting and appliances that are not essential to maintaining the safety and care of patients and employees, said Wayne McLellan, director of engineering services for CKHA.

"We are limited to the extent that we can do it," he

said. "Obviously we have to keep certain processes going and we have to have certain lighting on for patient/staff safety."

McLellan is hopeful that CKHA will be able to reduce its energy consumption by 20 to 30 per cent. CKHA's Green Team, which promotes environmentally friendly health care, started an energy awareness program to encourage employees to reduce energy waste, as well as installed motion sensors and LED lights throughout the hospitals.

Maple City Retirement Residence in Chatham is planning a special Global Earth Hour program for its residents today, including special Earth cookies.

Grocery shoppers can also expect to be reading labels under dim lights at Sobeys and The Real Canadian Superstore in Chatham.

"We very much believe that everyone has a responsibility to do our part," said Tracy Chisholm, director of communications for Sobeys Ontario.

William Street Cafe plans to host a candlelight event, featuring an acoustic performance by local musician Sarah Hiltz.

For those observing Global Earth Hour at home, the Chatham-Kent Fire Department reminds residents not to leave candles burning unattended.

Dealing with turmoil

By **HEATHER TRAVIS**
The Daily News

Rev. David Fuller believes his church is strong enough to withstand the turmoil that has polarized other congregations within the Anglican Church of Canada.

Fuller, who is the priest for the three churches within the Anglican Parish of Rondeau Bay, is upset with the division of some Canadian churches over the issue of blessing same-sex couples who were civilly married.

"It's a tough time," he said. "It's like a family fighting with itself."

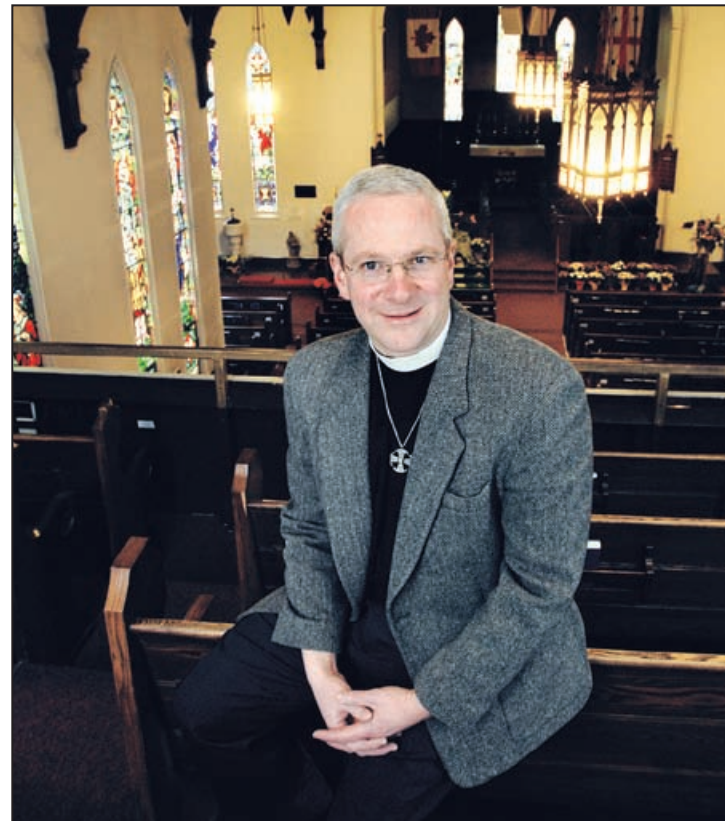
Fuller is responding to the recent separation of 15 Anglican churches from the Anglican Church of Canada. These churches have gone on to form Anglican Network Canada, which holds a more conservative view of the church's teachings.

"I do not want to see people leave the churches they grew up in because of this issue," said Fuller.

However, that is exactly what is happening nationally.

Rev. Charlie Masters, national director of the Anglican Network, said although the trigger for the separation was the same-sex blessing issue, it is not the sole cause.

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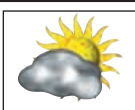
DIANA MARTIN PHOTO

Rev. Paul Millward, of Christ Church on Wellington Street West in Chatham, is concerned about the effect the same-sex blessing debate and upcoming decision is having on the Anglican Church of Canada. The decision will soon be debated by the Diocese of Huron which oversees the deanery of Kent, which Christ Church is a member.



TODAY'S FORECAST

cloudy periods
Low: -5 High: 2



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