

## **Halton Hills Tennis Club**

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*Council Meeting report - Tennis club looking forward to move to Gellert*

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### **Tennis club looking forward to move to Gellert**

Halton Hills Tennis Club president John Dallison says the newly-renamed club is thrilled with its planned move to the Gellert Centre from beside Gordon Alcott Arena.



**File photo**

The newly-named Halton Hills Tennis Club is excited about its move to the Gellert Centre where six new lit courts will be built this year.

After 30-plus years as the Gordon Alcott Tennis Club, the name change was made in anticipation of the tennis courts move to the Gellert Centre.

“We look to a new chapter in our history as the Halton Hills Tennis Club,” said president John Dallison. “We feel the Halton Hills Tennis Club more clearly defines our ongoing commitment to the entire community.”

Dallison said there is an upward trend in interest and participation in the sport. However, it does put pressure on the club to accommodate that demand on the current four Gordon Alcott courts.

“We do our level best to never turn anybody away, and everybody gets a chance to play,” said Dallison.

The planned six lit courts at Gellert will accommodate the current demand, plus look to the future to deal with the future growth, said Dallison.

“We are very excited at the prospect of relocating to the Gellert Centre in the spring of 2012,” he said. “The inclusion of tennis to the existing sports and recreational opportunities already available to all residents would be a significant enhancement to our community.”

Halton Hills council approved an award of contract to Pacific Paving Ltd. of Mississauga for \$574,630 to construct the courts. And \$85,433 to Ducon Utilities of Burlington to install the lighting.

There is a shortfall of \$221,276 in the Town budget to pay for the new courts, resulting from removal of earth stockpiled from the Gellert Centre’s construction, and the rerouting of storm drainage and sewer infrastructure for the next phase of the Centre. Extra costs associated with asphalt, electrical supplies and labour have also upped the budget.

The Town will take the money from reserves, and cost savings elsewhere.

With the addition of the six Gellert tennis courts, there would be a total of 15 courts in the community, which achieves the standard of one court for 4,000 residents.

But the Halton Hills Tennis Club (HHTC) is already preparing for phase two- two more courts and a dome over four existing courts for winter tennis.

According to HHTC data, it is predicted there will approximately 1,000 tennis players by 2021 (its membership stands about 320 now), and close to 1,500 by 2031.

The club is planning a \$50,000 fundraising campaign to pay for more coaches, instructors, new equipment and storage facilities. With these funds, the club will expand the junior program and address the increased interest in the sport with education programs.

With the construction of the tennis courts at Gellert, and the soccer field at Trafalgar Sports Park, the Mold-Masters SportsPlex site will be available to begin construction on the new arenas in the spring of 2012.