

# THE OAKVILLE Beaver

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**TRAIL MARKER:** Botanist Paul O'Hara has located a group of four marker trees, believed to have been used by Native North Americans to mark local paths, were recently documented in a wooded area off McPherson Road, south of the QEW.

## Following the trails of First Nations

By David Lea  
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

Native North Americans created them centuries ago to serve as living markers.

Now these trail marker trees are among the only signs of the civilization that existed on the

land that is now known as Oakville.

Hamilton botanist Paul O'Hara recently discovered four of the strangely shaped trees in Oakville.

He believes the trees were among those altered by the ancestors of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation about 200

years ago.

O'Hara, who has been researching Southern Ontario's trail marker trees for the past three years and co-authored *The Flora of Halton Region* in 2004, recently showed the trees to *The Oakville Beaver*. He also described the pur-

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## Don't dig deep for geothermal heat, officials are warning

By David Lea  
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

The accidental, and potentially disastrous, discovery of a natural gas deposit recently during a geothermal drilling project in an Oakville neighbourhood has led Mayor Rob Burton to call for provincial regulation of such activities.

Burton announced Thursday, he had contacted the Province urging it to place a moratorium on deep well or bore-hole drilling for geothermal energy installations until the necessary regulations can be put in place to ensure public safety.

"This council supports the Province's commitment to promoting renewable energy sources, however, we are very concerned that unregulated drilling poses a serious risk to the safety of our residents," said Burton.

"Under the Green Energy Act, 2009, the Town cannot pass bylaws that would prevent or restrict the installation of ground source energy systems so it is imperative that the Province take action."

There are a number of ways geothermal energy can be harnessed by residences.

One particular geothermal heating system utilizes a vertical hole, which is drilled into the earth so

"This council supports the Province's commitment to promoting renewable energy sources, however, we are very concerned that unregulated drilling poses a serious risk to the safety of our residents."

Mayor Rob Burton

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