



Photo by Brent Foster
Zachary Finlay, 4, gets behind the wheel of an Ontario Provincial Police car at a Police Day activities Saturday.

Police Day a success

Police Day 2001, Saturday's free, family-oriented event at Halton Regional Police headquarters, was another unqualified success.

"It was an incredible day," said Const. Gregg Davidson. "We had triple the people out that we did last year." In 2000, the first Police Day attracted around 700 people. Saturday's event was rewarded with well over 2,000 guests.

"We ran out of sno-cones and food," said Davidson. "The Children's Safety Village was jammed and we down the batteries on all the cars."

The organizer of the rock climbing wall even stayed on after the day officially ended to accommodate those who had lined up to take part.

"I can't say enough about the volunteers," said Davidson.

The day-long Police Day included activities both inside and outside the facility that ranged from tours to a variety of games and contests - plus entertainment that included well known children's entertainer Jack Grunsky, the Al Grose Magic Show, Dream, storyteller Brenda Byers and children's entertainer Paul Behnke.

Members of the Halton Regional Police Tactical and Rescue Unit were on hand, as were the Identification Unit and Bomb Squad plus personnel from Halton Ambulance and fire services from throughout the region.

In addition to all this, it was the affordability of the day which was also responsible for the numbers: including all activities and food, a family of four could enjoy Police Day for \$20.

"It was important to us that every income level could come and enjoy the day," said Davidson. "The kids just love it."

The day's activities also included an inflatable obstacle course, children's craft area, duck pond, headquarters tours and a rock climbing wall.

Expropriation process bogging down

QEW expansion means residents will move...sometime

**By Angela Blackburn
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF**

Most can't wait for the QEW to be widened through Oakville, and neither can Paul Studholme — even though his North Service Road home will be expropriated.

"We want to get on with it and get on with our lives," said Studholme, 50.

He and his wife Sandra, 52, fear that the expropriation process isn't moving quickly enough.

They also fear that the damage done by flooding during a severe rainstorm last May will negatively affect their home's value.

Studholme said the couple sold a cottage and a Mississauga condominium to buy 45 North

Service Rd. for \$186,500 in September 1999.

The following May, they watched as floodwater and sewage rose three feet in their finished basement.

Studholme said he figured he was handy enough to do repairs himself, so he took a \$20,000 cash insurance settlement.

He also began upgrades needed for an 800 sq. ft. home renovation planned for 2002.

"This was to be our retirement home," said Studholme.

The large property and bungalow style, proximity to Oakville Place, and its location mid-way between Mississauga and Hamilton hospitals suited Studholme, whose wife has medical problems.

The plans are history now and the future can't unfold quickly enough for the Studholmes.

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has hosted two public meetings and will hold another sometime this month.

Town of Oakville staff are supporting the MTO plan to widen the QEW to the north and the

13 required expropriations.

Yet, to date, the Town has made no formal decision.

It also has yet to decide whether it wants the MTO to rebuild the North Service Road, which would bring the QEW even closer to remaining residents.

No matter what the Town decides, Studholme figures his home will be expropriated.

He sees no point in continuing with renovation and he wants to move on.

"The (highway) project should be finished in 2005 or early 2006. Are we going to be here until 2002? They're not letting us know."

He's also afraid that he'll lose in the expropriation process.

"They can't appraise the house now, it's worth less now than when we bought it," he said.

His communication to the MTO has drawn a response that the MTO will meet with residents to outline process. No date has been set.

The QEW will be widened to eight lanes plus collectors (for a total 11 lanes).



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