

Photo by Peter C. McCusker

Cindy Humphries sales rep, Lloyd Phinney, broker owner, and Alex Szinegh, sales rep., present \$100,000 cheque to Lee Bernard of the Bronte BIA, for the village's Butterfly

Bronte real estate firm donates \$100,000 to **Butterfly Project**

The Bronte Butterfly recorded its first major cash pledge. Exit Realty Negotiators, an all-Canadian real estate brokerage located in Bronte, plans to raise \$100,000 for the project by donating \$500 per real estate transaction.

Exit Realty Negotiators broker/owner Lloyd Phinney, an Oakville resident of 26 years, and business partner Alex Szinegh feel that the proposed park development will be good for Bronte and the Town of Oakville.

The one-of-a-kind park will attract more visitors and tourists to Bronte and Oakville who, in turn, will support local businesses. As more tourists and visitors come to appreciate Bronte and Oakville, real estate in our whole town will more than likely appreciate in value," said Phinney.

The Bronte Butterfly is a proposed \$2.5-million project for the Bronte Heritage Waterfront Park at the foot of Bronte Road in Oakville. The plans call for butterfly and respective bricks, all other formal gardens, trellis structures, pathways, fountains, a gazebo, and an outdoor winter artificial skateway in the shape of a butterfly.

This Halton Millennium project, initiated by the Bronte Business Improvement Area (B.I.A.) is to be entirely funded through private donations (individuals, organizations, businesses, and corporations). Federal, provincial, and other funding have been applied for.

The fundraising campaign has something for everyone. There are 15,500 bricks available at a cost of \$25 to \$100, all reserved for private individuals; 5,200 bricks ranging from \$150 to \$500, and 260 trees/benches from \$1,500 to \$2,000 open for purchase by individuals, organizations, businesses, and corporations.

Then, there are 22 specialty items ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000 to be auctioned

All brick donors will have their name engraved on their items will receive special recognition on or near the item purchased.

Exit Realty Negotiators pledge a donation of one \$50 brick and three \$150 bricks per real estate transaction. One \$150 brick will be engraved with the name Exit Realty Negotiators whereas the other two \$150 bricks will be engraved with the name of the business that referred the real estate client to Exit.

"Where or when has a business had the opportunity to promote itself with a permanent advertisement at no cost to the company?" Phinney stated.

The name of the person(s) who either purchases or sells their property through Exit will appear on the \$50 brick.

Exit Realty Negotiators can be contacted at 905-465-1010. For further details on the Bronte Butterfly or to volunteer, contact the Project office at 905-825-2245 or check the Internet www.brontevillage.net.

School board has no options: it must make better use of space

No new construction until excess spaces eliminated

By Dennis Smith SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

Halton's public school chair agrees with a provincial report urging the board to resolve its school accommodation situation.

'As long as there is excess student space, there will be no funding for new schools," said Ethel Gardiner. "Growth in specific areas of Halton has been extensive and we need to make tough decisions on accommodation issues."

An Education Improvement Commission review has urged the Halton District School Board to move quickly to address the student accommo-

The board's schools have about 5,000 excess student spaces, which must be eliminated before receiving funding for new facilities. After months of meetings and debate, motions to close three elementary schools were defeated last April on a tie

"The Halton board faces a major challenge in terms of student accommodation," said Ann Vanstone, chair of the EIC review team. "We feel this issue is almost paralysing the board and its community and is preventing the board from moving forward in many areas of its operations."

Gardiner said accommodation has been an ongoing issue for the board, which has considered closing schools twice during the last few years.

The board's policy for considering school accommodation issues has been frozen until next

However, an interim policy has been proposed for the board meeting tonight (Wednesday). Burlington trustee David Abbott has made the recommendation in an effort to close Fairfield Public School in Aldershot by next June.

He said maintaining good programming is difficult at the school, because it has 68 students spread over Grades 1-5, with two grades sharing each classroom.

Fairfield School supporters have maintained the closure threats have hurt the school and its enrolment will increase when new housing developments in the area come onstream.

Although it urged the board to get moving on its accommodation situation, the review commission praised it for making good progress in restructuring its organization.

The students we met with were proud of their board and they felt little impact in the classroom from the restructuring process," said Vanstone.

Other EIC recommendations for the board

· Trustees should move toward a new role

emphasizing policy governance. Explore cost savings for new facilities.

Consider having an integrated transportation department with the Halton Catholic District School Board.

· Involve all groups in board planning and decision-making processes.

 Review communication distribution timelines. (Employees and school councils have said important information doesn't always reach them in a timely manner).

· Review the board's cleaning program in

 Address needs and concerns of all employee groups. (Some staff say they feel isolated and over-

Commission critical of Separate Board's communication skills

The Halton Catholic District School Board needs to do a better job of communicating and consulting with its students, teachers and parents.

That's the main thrust of recommendations coming from a report issued earlier this week by the provincial Education Improvement Commission

The EIC, which is evaluating all 72 school boards across the province, suggested the Catholic board needs to make improved communications and community relations a priority, and should include employee groups, students, parents and community groups when developing its budgets and policies.

However, the commission also praised the board's development of relationships with private and public partners, its staff, and its development of school communities.

"Halton Catholic has been highly successful in developing partnerships that enhance learning and increase efficiencies," said Arlene Wright, chair of the EIC review team. "Staff and students identify strongly with their school communities, and we heard a great deal of praise for the work of principals and teachers across the system."

Chris Jewell, communications director for the board, said trustees would receive a copy of the report at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday night.

While the commission found some areas where the board could improve, Jewell noted that there were many positive comments throughout the

He added that staff and trustees will need to review the commission's report thoroughly before deciding how to act on the recommendations.

The commission conducted its review in July, meeting with trustees, board staff, principals, teachers, students, school council members and community members. The aim of the review is to evaluate how well the board is responding to the challenges of restructuring.

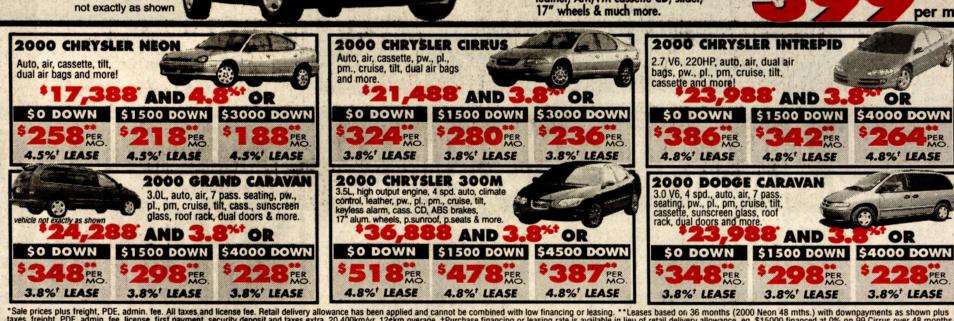
Holiday fare at Halton Museum

Visitors to the Halton Region Museum Sunday. will experience a 19th century homestead, the ambiance of the historic Hearth Room, the taste of scrumptious Thanksgiving fare and the warmth of hospitality.

The museum is situated in Kelso Conservation Area near Milton. The picturesque setting beneath Niagara Escarpment was once part of a farm established by the Alexander family in the 1830s. Many of the original farm buildings are still used by the Museum including the barn, piggery, blacksmith shop and stone farmhouse. The traditional

Thanksgiving fare will be served in the 1870s Hearth Room. As its name suggests, the centrepiece is a wall-to-wall stone fireplace designed those commonly found in midnineteenth century inns. Handhewn wooden beams grace the fieldstone walls. Limited seating is at 1 p.m. Advanced booking required. The price for Thanksgiving dinner \$20/adult and \$10/child (three to 12 years).





*Sale prices plus freight, PDE, admin. fee. All taxes and license fee. Retail delivery allowance has been applied and cannot be combined with low financing or leasing. **Leases based on 36 months (2000 Neon 48 mths.) with downpayments as shown plus taxes, freight, PDE, admin. fee, license, first payment, security deposit and taxes extra. 20,400km/yr. 12¢km overage. †Purchase financing or leasing rate is available in lieu of retail delivery allowance. eg. \$15000 financed at 0% on 99 Cirrus over 48 months in lieu of \$1750 retail delivery allowance monthly payment is \$312.51 and cost of borrowing is \$0 effective interest rate 7.25% OAC. Minimum financing term 48 months. 1999 Sebring: 48 mo. lease, \$4,000 down plus freight, taxes,first & sec.



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