



CHRISTMAS MEANS SHARING

Ya want some? Mark Helmer (right) offered to share his fruit and cheese lunch Friday. One of 40 children in the Montessori Pre-School in Norval Community Centre, Mark 3, enjoyed his lunch at the school's Christmas party. He shared his table with four-year old Robby Carter. (Herald photo)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

No damage by trail bikers to forest land

Letter to the Editor:
I am writing to clarify a few points in the article "Regional councillors launch debate over 'twigs snapped' by trail bikers", which appeared in your Dec. 18 "Weekend Extra."
The statement (by the region's environmental and ecological and advisory committee) that some damage had been done is quite incorrect. The Committee, which viewed the site during and after the event, reported they "could not find any evidence that the event had been held, due to rehabilitation undertaken by the organizers." The Forestry staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources at Cambridge, who manage the forest area, also inspected the site and found no damage. In fact, they stated that if all users of the regional forests were as careful and considerate, their (MNR's) job would be much easier.
The Halton Off-Road Riders Association went through seven months of meetings, environmental assessments, site visits, letter writing and legal agreements in order to obtain the use (from both provincial and regional governments), for a period of eight hours, a tract of the Halton regional forest. Of this, a 75-acre piece of public land, the motorcycles actually traversed, except for all-weather access roads, a mere one-third of one acre. The rest of the area was not touched.
In order to obtain the use of this area, the Halton Off-Road Riders were required to sign a binding, legal agreement with the regional government and to post a \$2,000 letter of credit or bond which the region could have cashed and used to repair damage caused by the event, if there had been any damage.
The bond was never cashed since there was no damage. The Association was also insured for the sum of \$1 million in regard to any liability or

damage which might have arisen from the event. No claim was made since there was no damage.
Regional officials, including the director of the planning department and one of his staff, a staff member of the regional legal department and

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Merry Christmas

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