

# Outlook on Halton Hills

## Rehab riding centre being planned

A remedial Equestrian Centre for the physically and mentally handicapped will soon open its doors on Sept. 1.

Mayberry Riding School at Steeles and Trafalgar road will offer a rehabilitation and treatment centre servicing Halton Region.

The centre called the Thomas Remedial Equestrian Centre, will provide exercise, therapy and fun to riders with disabilities like cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, blindness, deafness, stroke, accidental injury and mental and emotional handicaps, says Thomas Remedial Equestrian Centre organizer Mavis Nicholson.

Each person applying to ride will be assessed by a physiotherapist in consultation with their own doctor. A program for each individual will then be established. "Using the ability of the rider, benefits are physical, psychological and social," Ms. Nicholson said.

Saturday afternoon organizers received a 22-year-old horse from a Toronto man, Joseph Bauer, as a donation to help the program get under way.

The horse had been at Ashmount Stables in Gormley for the past seven years and it has been in the handicapped program for 25 years, Ms. Nicholson said.

She estimates there are 500 handicapped adults and children in this area alone who could benefit from therapy and recreation the program offers.

The only stable offering a program for the handicapped in the Toronto area (CARD - Community Association for Riding for the Disabled) has almost 200 riders in



Joseph Bauers and Mavis Nicholson gaze at Buster the horse Mr. Bauers donated to the Thomas Remedial Equestrian Centre at the corner of Steeles and Trafalgar roads. The school still needs horses and volunteers to help run the centre which is slated for a Sept. 1 opening.

Ms. Nicholson said graduates of the remedial riding school for disabled and emotionally handicapped people may be accepted into the Mayberry Riding School at the same location. (Herald photo)

the program now with a list of over 100 adults and students, Ms. Nicholson said.

Mr. Bauer is a founding member of CARD and his horse is now the third horse in the Thomas Equestrian Centre, Ms. Nicholson said.

Organizers are still looking for four more "Bomb-proof" horses before the centre opens in September. "Bomb-proof means nothing will upset them," Ms. Nicholson said. Horses must have a calm nature to them if they are to be accepted to the school.

"We bounce balls off them and drop crutches in front of them (to test their nature)," said Ms. Nicholson.

Riders who graduate from the Thomas Remedial Equestrian Centre can attend the Mayberry Riding School at the same location so continuity can be maintained for the riders, said Ms. Nicholson.

The Thomas Equestrian Centre will need six staff persons and at least 100 volunteers to get the program running efficiently, Ms. Nicholson said.

Anyone wishing to donate a horse or volunteer for the program can contact Mavis Nicholson at 877-0067 evenings or 457-7800 during business hours.

## Permission granted

Although it's after the fact, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority has granted a Norval businessman permission to put crushed stones and a four inch diameter drainage pipe on the Credit River floodplain.

Bill Pomeroy of the Credit River Boat Company violated a provincial regulation by putting the crushed stone fill and drainage pipe on his Adamson Street North property, says the Authority report.

The fill and pipe are designed to improve rear lot drainage to allow boat storage.

Authority staff have reviewed Mr. Pomeroy's application and say it shouldn't affect control of flooding. They noted no significant changes in grades occurred on the property with the addition of the stone fill.

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## Retracing the steps of pioneer fur traders

The pathways of fur traders and explorers along the Humber River will be followed by modern-day hikers when the Kortright Centre for Conservation, near Kleinburg, presents the Humber Valley Day Hike, Saturday and Sunday, May 30-31, from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Humber Valley Day Hike is a special guided walk at Kortright because it follows trails that aren't normally open to the public.

Participants on this six-kilometre hike see different aspects of Canada's early history. The Kortright naturalist leading the group will point out the site of an ancient Huron Indian village, which is now the site of an archaeological dig, and the ruins of a pioneer homestead.

The program also features the natural heritage of the valley, including beaver dams, wildflowers, and wildlife.

The hike includes sections of uncleared trail and steep hills. However, there are frequent stops, including a break for a picnic lunch.

### Tender awarded

Mann Construction Limited was awarded the tender for supply and delivery of Granular A and Granular B material for application to various sections of roadway in the rural areas Monday.

Mann's bid on the tender came in at \$36,423 - more than \$9,000 less than the next lowest bid.

Hikers are advised to wear sturdy shoes and to bring their own lunches.

The Kortright Centre for Conservation is open daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located on Pine Valley Drive south of Major Mackenzie Drive, west of Highway 400 and Canada's Wonderland. For more information about programs at Kortright, call (416) 661-6600.

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