

# Outlook on Halton Hills

## Expectant mothers need not worry

Planning for a new addition to the family is a happy time for everyone. The last thing an expectant mother wants to worry about is how to collect maternity benefits while she is off work. Hopefully, this article will alleviate some of those worries, and answer a few questions.

To be eligible for maternity benefits, a woman must experience an interruption of earnings. That is, she must have her earnings reduced by at least 40 per cent. As well, she must have at least 20 weeks of insurable employment in her qualifying period, and she must supply a medical from her doctor as proof of her pregnancy.

Once a claim for maternity benefits is established, the future mother must serve a two-week waiting period (for which no benefits are payable). She is then eligible to be paid 15 weeks of maternity benefits, providing she meets the eligibility criteria.

Benefits are paid at a rate of 60 per cent of normal weekly insurable earnings. As mentioned in a previous article, a claim for benefits runs in three phases. Maternity benefits are only payable in the first (or initial) phase, so if a woman has already collected other benefits, her entitlement to maternity benefits could be reduced.

Generally, maternity benefits can begin eight weeks prior to the expected or actual date of delivery, and be paid up to 17 weeks after the

expected or actual date of birth. This gives a lot of flexibility for someone making a claim.

Remember, maternity benefits are not automatic. The time to file a claim is immediately after the last day of work. Often times the "blessed event" is hard to predict, so obtain an application and medical certificate ahead of time, and have everything ready to go in case of a surprise! And don't delay in filing your claim because you don't have your Record of Employment. That can be supplied after you actually file.

There are always exceptions to the rule, so if you would like more specific information about maternity benefits, contact your local Canada Employment Centre. We're here to help!

### Man charged

A man stopped by police for an offence under the Highway Traffic Act, was charged with failing to give police a breath sample Sunday afternoon. Police say the suspect had "an odor of alcohol on his breath," but refused to permit a breathalyzer sample. A Norval man, 30, will appear in court Oct. 17.



Halton police found this red 1982 Toyota impaled on a rock on Clayhill Road Aug. 9. Metro Police reported

### Vehicle recovered

Halton police have recovered a stolen vehicle belonging to a Scarborough man. The police discovered the red, 1982 Toyota Tercel lodged on a rock and severely damaged on Clayhill Road, Friday around noon, and contacted the Metro Toronto Police Force.

Police dusted the vehicle for fingerprints, and examined the area for evidence of a driver who fled the scene of the accident. The right front of the car was lodged onto a large rock on the west side of the road while the vehicle was travelling northbound, police say. So far, no arrests have been made.

the car stolen from a Scarborough man. No charge have been laid.

### Minor injuries

A Sarnia man and his elderly passenger received minor injuries when their vehicle struck a pole on Trafalgar Road Sept. 4, police say. A 1980 Chrysler Lebaron was southbound on Trafalgar Road near Maple Avenue when it lost control over the railway tracks, striking a pole on the east side of the road. The car's passenger, a 67-year-old Sarnia woman, and the driver, a Sarnia man, 62, received minor injuries but were not treated at hospital. The driver has been charged under the Highway Traffic Act.

## In the hills

### Talent Night

The Seventh Annual Library and Cultural Centre Anniversary Celebration is scheduled for Oct. 10-14. Local Talent Night will be held Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. Application forms may be picked up at the Recreation and Parks Department Office, 25 James Street, Georgetown or the Acton Indoor Pool. For more information please call 877-5185 ext. 278.

### Youth charged

A 17-year-old Georgetown youth was charged with failing to stop in connection with an Aug. 1 accident on Shelley Street. Police say a southbound 1981 Dodge pickup was demolished when it went through a stop sign and hit a vehicle driven by a Georgetown woman, 34, before striking a tree. Police report no injuries.

### Society meets

The Halton-Peel branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will hold a meeting on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 2 p.m. at the civic centre (Chinguacousy Library) Bramalea, in the second floor meeting room. A guest speaker will discuss Family Tree Research in the United Church Archives, and visitors are welcome to attend.

### Classes start

English as a second language classes are offered at the Georgetown District High School on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Come join in. Register at the class.

## Shape up

If your fitness program has become routine and maybe a little boring, you can liven it up this fall with a weekend away at the YWCA's Shape Up Weekend for Women. The Fern Resort, a five star resort near Orillia is the setting for a program which offers high calibre fitness workouts, aquacise, jogging and weight supervision, as well as ample free time to enjoy the resort's many leisure activities.

The package includes the fitness program, double occupancy room with fireplace, five meals plus Friday light meal, and use of facilities. The fee for the Shape Up Weekend, November 11-13, is \$265. Call the YWCA at 487-7151 to reserve.

## New exhibit at House Sol

Gallery House Sol in Georgetown opens up an exhibition of potter Robert Tetu and painter Edward Schleimer, beginning Sept. 17.

The event, running until Oct. 6, will be a reunion for the artists, who attended school together in Kitchener and at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto.

Edward Schleimer has exhibited his paintings at Gallery House Sol for the last 12 years. His display will include some large portraits of himself and his family, expressionistic wood cuts and 24 classically-crafted objects in porcelain.

Robert Tetu, a newcomer to Gallery House Sol, will display his fine pottery creations.

Gallery House Sol is located at 45 Charles St. in Georgetown. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2 to 8 p.m., and Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m.



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