

# Glen Williams students aim to protect environment

By LISA RUTLEDGE  
the Herald

After a four-month recycling project at Glen Williams Public School, two Grade 5 students have become excellent environmental teachers at home.

Both Rachel Kumar and Stephanie Libby, have integrated recycling methods learned at school into their homes.

Glen Williams school children participated in a recycling program which included litter-less Tuesdays, waste separation, composting and even a craft sale which raised \$150 for the World Wildlife Fund.

Rachel and Stephanie were presented certificates and extra-large chocolate bars at last week's Regional Council meeting after the girls wrote to tell the region about the school's recycling project.

During Environment Week, the first week of June, the region and its Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee sponsored a campaign inviting students to submit environment improvement ideas. The girls wrote to the campaign, The Halton Environmental Learning Project (HELP), on behalf of Glen Williams Public School.

More than 150 students from Halton schools, who participated in the project, will also receive certificates of recognition.

Following the March break, the school purchased a composter for the recycling project. Leftovers from the children's lunches were tossed into the composter behind

the school, said Rachel.

Rachel and Stephanie acted as garbage monitors to ensure the materials to be thrown out every day were properly separated into designated containers. The girls sat outside to help the younger children, who were still unsure of the process, place the plastics in one container, bottles in another and paper in yet another container.

Grade 5 students analyzed the success of the recycling program by charting the amount of waste accumulated every day.

In the beginning there were approximately 100 pieces of plastic for about 200 children, said Stephanie, but as the program progressed the amount of waste was reduced by 75 per cent. Another class studied the success of the project by daily weighing the amount of garbage tossed away.

On litter-less Tuesdays, the students were encouraged to bring lunches in boxes or bags and to use thermoses, limiting the materials to be thrown out after eating lunch. Even the apples and orange wastes were tossed into the school's composter, leaving minimal waste.

Close involvement with the school program made recycling at Stephanie's home more efficient. "I learned what I could throw out and what I could save," she said. "At home we're starting to recycle more and we're even thinking about getting a composter."

Stephanie believes it is important to get her family more involved in recycling. "If I start now the habit will grow on me and continue

through when I'm older," she insists. Even her sister, Natalie, who is still in kindergarten, knows that pop cans are placed in special bins. "But she doesn't understand about composting," Stephanie explained.

The project made Rachel more aware of the earth's waste crisis and although her family has been recycling for years, she has realized how important good waste management has become. "I was quite proud of the work the school was able to do," Rachel said. "And a little surprised too."

Stephanie is constantly nagging about recycling at home, said the 11-year-old's mother, Barbara Libby. "The kids are really becoming good teachers," she said.

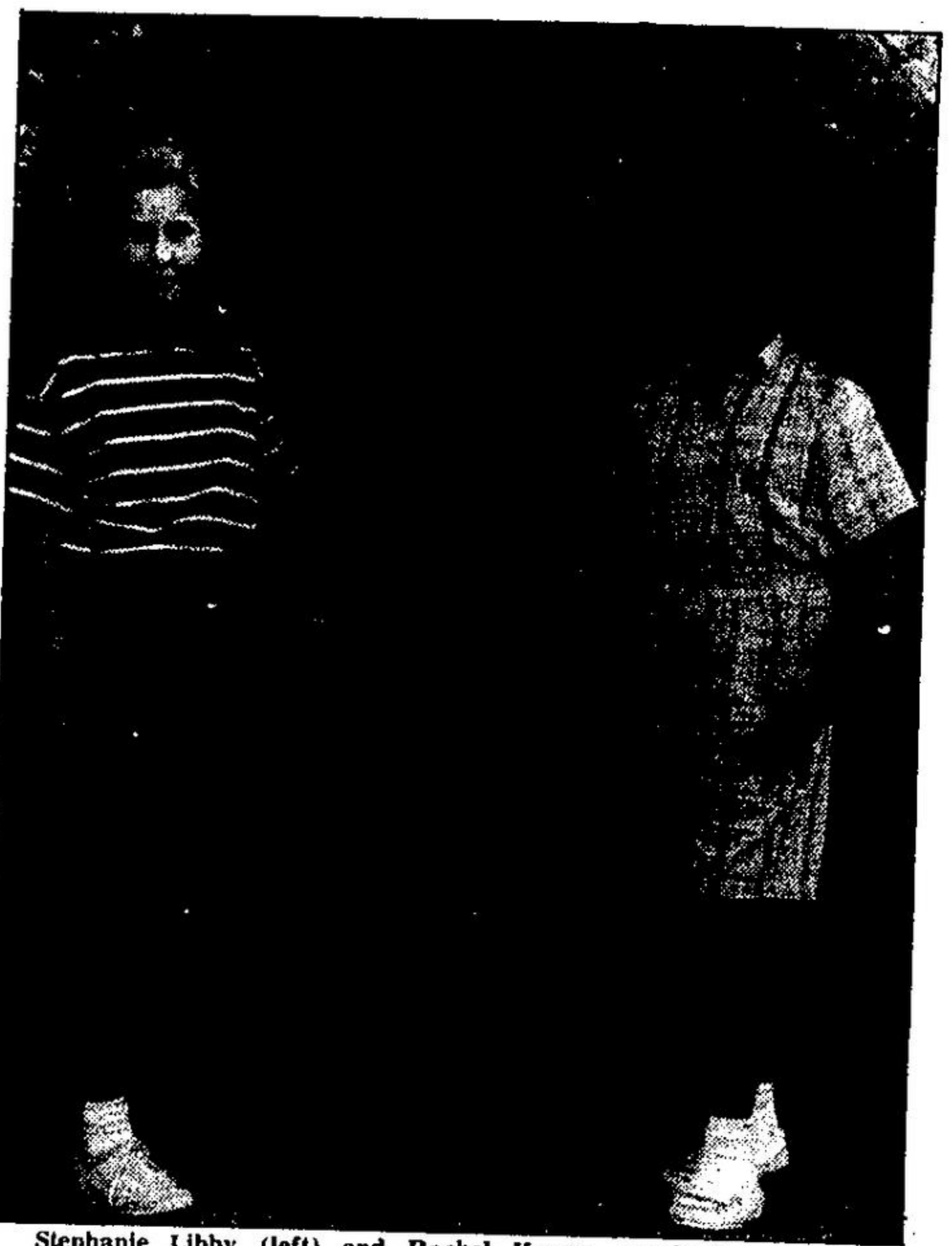
Mrs. Libby was pleased to see the enthusiasm shown by the kids. The students wrote rap songs to sing during morning announcements to promote litter-less Tuesdays, she added.

At least once a week, the Libby family collects about five grocery bags full of garbage from the area surrounding their home.

Rachel's father, Ashok Kumar, said their family concentrates on saving heat by using their fireplace and protecting the ozone layer by not installing an air-conditioner. According to Mr. Kumar, the family reduces a week's garbage down to two bags.

"I'm happy children are aware of these things," Mr. Kumar said. The students are at the right level to learn about recycling because, "They will grow up to be responsible citizens," he maintains.

The Glen Williams Public School recycling program will be continued in the upcoming school year.



Stephanie Libby (left) and Rachel Kumar, received recognition from Halton Regional Council for their efforts to make their fellow students at Glen Williams Public School more aware of the need to protect the environment. (Herald Photo)

## Stroeter appointed agriculture director

TORONTO - Rolly Stroeter has been appointed director of the Farm Assistance Programs Branch, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Rita Burak has announced.

The branch researches, develops and administers programs to assist farmers with financial assistance and incentives, in the form of loan guarantees, property tax rebates and incentive and compensation packages.

Stroeter, who has been in the public service since 1979, served as director of the ministry's Audit Services Branch for nearly three years. Prior to that, he was with Management Board of Cabinet as coordinator of expenditure policy. He also held various financial management positions with the Ministry of Labour for seven years.

Stroeter has a Masters of Business Administration and a BA from York University.

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**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING**  
WARD 2/STEELES AVENUE/JAMES SNOW PARKWAY

Council for the Town of Halton Hills will conduct a Public Meeting to examine and discuss a proposed amendment to Zoning By-law 1965-136 to permit a range of rural and prestige industrial uses on the subject property.

The property is located on Part of Lot 15, Concession 5, Town of Halton Hills (Oakville).

**ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE WELCOME.**

Time: 7:20 p.m.  
Date: Monday, July 23, 1990  
Location: Council Chambers  
Halton Hills Civic Centre  
1 Halton Hills Drive  
Georgetown, Ontario  
D12/Ambler-Courtney/90

Ad. No. 1261