

Community

Regional Council to consider enacting tough tobacco bylaws

Halton Regional Council will consider today (Wednesday) if Halton's four municipalities should enact bylaws governing the sale of tobacco to teenagers under the age of 16.

If Regional Council requests that Halton Hills, Milton, Burlington and Oakville introduce the appropriate bylaws, it will be

done on behalf of the Halton Regional Council on Smoking and Health, (HRCSH).

According to a report issued by the HRCSH, which will be presented during today's council meeting, teenagers who have yet to smoke by the age of 18 are not likely to ever start. The report quotes from a 1986 Gallup Poll

that found 90 per cent of smokers first smoked by the age of 16 and were regular smokers by the age of 17.

The report goes on to point out that the mortality rate for smoking-related diseases for those who began smoking at 15 years of age is 50 per cent higher than for those who begin smoking in later years.

Currently, Halton Hills only has a bylaw governing cigarette vending machines. Halton Hills Bylaw Enforcement Officer Bob Ustrzycki said Tuesday the bylaw empowers the Town to dictate where vending machines are located in an establishment. Machines must be located so it can always be seen by the employees, he said.

The report urges local municipalities to introduce further bylaws that require tobacco retailers to obtain a licence to sell cigarettes.

The Town could pass such a bylaw, said Mr. Ustrzycki, as long as it didn't overstep the Federal Government's Tobacco Restraint Act. This legislation states cigarettes can't be sold to minors under the age of 16.

Mr. Ustrzycki said the licensing of tobacco retailers would allow the Town to apply conditions to the sale of cigarettes such as requiring teenagers to show proof of age.

According to the HRCSH report, other components of any new municipal legislation should include the following: stringent fines, and/or revocation of a tobacco licence for selling tobacco to minors; fines should be significant to act as a deterrent; both the store owner and the clerk should be subject to fines for selling tobacco to a minor.

To keep the licence, retail outlets should be required to indicate by a sign that identification is required for tobacco purchases.

Parenting Tips

Georgetown Parent-Child Centre

Styles of discipline depend on circumstances

By VALERIE CUNNINGHAM, R.N.

Earlier we talked about styles of discipline. My guess is that most of us change styles depending on circumstances and the situation. What are those circumstances and situations? Yes, more questions to ask ourselves. Last time we looked at our parents' influence on our style of parenting, but what are the other influences to look at?

First of all, we need to consider if our own needs are being met. For example: generally speaking, are we managing our finances adequately? Are we comfortable in our significant relationships? Do we feel we are making a contribution and/or that we are useful in our work?

And specifically, Am I too tired or worried to deal with this discipline problem now? Am I really angry at my spouse/boss/best friend? Is this going to create more work and I'm already burdened with thankless tasks? Will I look better to my friends if my child per-

forms well?

Secondly, we need to study our general and specific expectations we have for our children: Are they realistic considering the child's age and ability? Is he too young to do this well? Is she capable of doing a better job? Has my teen handled other responsibility well before taking on this new one? Does my child need more sleep and cuddles? Does my baby need more activity and stimulation?

Before we can perfect the job of parenting (do we ever?), we need to begin to recognize and take care of our own needs and abilities. Then we also need an understanding of each child's special needs and skills.

Valerie Cunningham, a paediatric nurse in independent practice, offers a variety of parenting courses and private consultations. She may be reached at 877-6396. During April and May she will lead two parenting courses for the Georgetown Parent-Child Centre. For more information call the Centre at 873-2960.



Watch the egg

Waiting for the egg to fall at Harrison Public School in Georgetown last Wednesday were (standing left) Matthew Gray and Justin Hunt and (standing right) Natalie Van Rooyen, whose raw eggs did survive numerous drops by Georgetown and District High School student, Scott Vandevalk, working on his school Co-op project. Participants in the egg-drop contest included Grade 5 students, along with a Grade One buddy. (Herald photo)



Easter Bonnet Parade

Showing off their home-made Easter bonnets are (left to right) Rita Thurlback, Tom Hall, Sean Krosse, Byron Brown (behind the rabbit ear), Jeremy Forrest and Joe Grabutt. This group of

kindergarten students made up part of the Easter Bonnet Parade held at Joseph-Gibbons Public School last Thursday afternoon. (Herald photo)

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