

Action Alert bulletin a welcome publication

By BARBARA HALSALL
Herald Special
GETTING A BETTER
AGREEMENT

Every couple of months the "Action Alert" bulletin arrives from Pollution Probe. Its purpose is to alert people who are concerned about the environment to critical issues that are taking place in our province, our country or in our world. As well as giving background information, the "Action Alert" bulletin tells readers who to write, phone or FAX on important issues.

What the August bulletin tells about the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), under negotiations since June of this year, is chilling. "Action Alert" points out that these talks are being conducted with no commitment whatsoever from any of the three governments to incorporate environmental concerns as part of the agreement. The federal government tells us that they are committed to assess NAFTA's potential environmental impacts only AFTER the trade negotiations are com-

pleted. Any necessary major changes that should be made to protect the environment will never be made at that stage as an add-on.

Gro Harlem Brundtland, who chaired the World Commission on Environment and Development which produced the Brundtland Report (1987) says in an introduction to Preserving Our World: "In the Commission, we have presented a general case for sustainable development. But this is meaningless unless sustainable development is woven into the fabric of all our lives - through individual action, through government policies and laws, and through corporate policies and programmes. Now it is up to you to judge governments and corporations."

Four years later as a sweeping agreement for the entire continent is being negotiated, the environment is being treated as window dressing rather than as the basis for the agreement.

In a September 7th, Toronto Star article, Linda McQuaig's book, *The Quick and the Dead*:



Brian Mulrone, Big Business and the Seduction of Canada, is quoted to show how Canada, like a virgin on her first date, had her pants negotiated off in the US/Canada agreement.

"Action Alert" cites examples from the Canada/US free trade agreement and US/Mexico free trade experiments to show that environmental degradation results when environmental protection is not built into the trade framework: "The Canada/US free trade agreement stipulates the 'equivalency' of testing methods and standards for pesticides. As a result, Canada's pesticides standards are being altered from a focus on safety to the 'risk/benefit' approach of the U.S., in which economic benefits

often take priority over safety concerns." In the U.S., Louisiana has been forced to accept toxic waste shipments from Mexico, despite a state law prohibiting toxic waste imports. That law was overturned in a U.S. federal court because of existing U.S. trade agreements with Mexico. In Mexico, environmental regulations are weak, and enforcement is very lax. In a large industrialized region near the U.S. border, hazardous wastes are being spewed into the environment at levels hundreds of times higher than accepted safety standards. Insecticides (including DDT), fungicides and herbicides not allowed in the U.S. or Canada are widely used in Mexico...."

If you don't like what you are

reading contact: ministers: Michael Wilson, M.P., International Trade, House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6, FAX: 613-993-5017; Jean Charest, M.P., Environment, House of Commons, Ottawa, K1A 0A6, FAX: 613-953-3457.

Madame Brundtland goes on to say: "Let no one tell you to mind your own business". Survival is EVERYONE'S business."

Seek out information. Get involved. You have a stake in our world and the decisions your country is making. TAKE ACTION! YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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Community Service Bulletins

CSBs
If you are a non-profit organization, service club or charity or church group and would like us to publish your community service announcement of community interest, call us at 877-2201 during regular office hours. There is no charge for this service to Halton Hills community groups. The deadline for submissions is Friday at Noon for publication for the following Wednesday. Deadlines will not be extended under any circumstances. Although we will do our best to print all announcements, space is limited and there are no guarantees of insertion.

Happenings

Are you expecting a baby this Fall? Halton Regional Health Department offers a series for expectant parents! You will gain the most benefits by attending as early as possible. If your due date is in Oct./Nov./Dec./Jan. 92, register now for the early series by calling Milton, 878-7261.

Want to go back to school? But you can't find child care? If you are a pregnant teen or young mother, then TEAM may be the program for you. Child care is provided while you work on your high school credits. Work at your own pace, with supportive staff to help you. Program to be offered in Georgetown this Fall. Phone Anne Day at 333-3499 or 878-1240.

"Education is Ageless", our Fall '91 Program Brochure, is now available. If you haven't received your copy, please pick one up at any library, Information Centre, local school or call us for additional pick up locations. 333-3499/878-1240. Adult and Continuing Education, Halton Board of Education.

Halton Centennial Manor is offering an educational series on Aging at the Manor, Ontario St., Milton. Session 4 - Mon., Sept. 30, 7-9 p.m. - Common Medical Problems of Aging. Helping the doctor in assessment - medications - safe use plus problems. Dr. Mary Rudyk, Geriatrician. Call Lauraine Andrews at 878-4141, ext. 167 for more information.

Central Badminton Club - sessions commencing Sept. 26, 7:30 till 10 at Georgetown and District High School, Gyms 1 and 2. Everyone welcome.

The 5th Annual Multiple Sclerosis

Bachelor Classic will be held on Fri., Nov. 15 at the Westin Harbour Castle Conference Centre. Cost \$135 per person. Ticket on sale at (416) 922-6065 or 1-800-268-7582.

Centennial C.V.I. Reunion Guelph, May 1-3, 1992 "Spartans Come Home" for a fun-filled and nostalgic weekend. All former students, teachers and staff interested forward name, address and phone number to 289 College Avenue, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 1S9. Att. Reunite '92 or call (519) 824-1331.

Dinner Theatre, presenting Joe Abbey Colburne in "The Treasure Chest" at Georgetown District Christian School, Nov. 2, 7 p.m. \$75 couple, \$38 single. For tickets call 878-2142 or 853-1203. Limited seating.

Acton Badminton Club will start the Fall session on Oct. 3, 8 p.m. at the Acton High School gym. Everyone welcome. For more info call George Lee, 853-1066.

Knox Presbyterian Women, Main St., Georgetown, are holding a Giant Garage Sale, Sat., Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Proceeds for our Kitchen Renovation Fund.

The Victorian Order of Nurses, Halton Branch, will hold a Foot Care Clinic at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital, Emergency Dept., Oct. 1, 1:30-4 p.m., Oct. 15, 1-4 p.m. Cost \$15. For further info and appointment call 1-800-387-7127 and 7128.

Halton Prevention Network presents a panel presentation on Self Help Groups, Oct. 3, 4-6 p.m. at the J.W. Singletown Centre, Halton Board of Education, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington. For further info call Susan Stuart at 844-5502/878-2375.

Halton Regional Health Dept. of

fers a 6-part series "Pausitive Women", beginning Wed., Oct. 9 at the Halton Regional Health Department Office in Georgetown, 83 Main St. S. To register and for info call 877-2238.

Optimrs Craft and Bake Sale, Optimist Hall, Hwy. 7 N., Georgetown, Sat., Oct. 5 and 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Penny Sale, Free Coffee, Free Admission.

St. George's Anglican Church Xmas Bazaar, Sat., Nov. 2, 1991, 10 a.m. Watch for further announcements.

McCauley Ladies Basketball League Registration and play will commence Wed., Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. at Centennial Middle School, 233 Delrex Ave., Georgetown. Contact Wendy Wilcox, 877-6062 for further info. Call ladies 18 yrs. and up welcome.

Yoga Classes for persons with Multiple Sclerosis, held every Friday at 1:00 p.m. at Hugh Foster Hall, Victoria Park Square, Milton. \$5.00 per class. For more info call Kathy Williams, 875-1432.

Meetings

The Halton Hills Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society will hold their Annual Meeting on Mon., Oct. 7 at 8:00 p.m. in the Community Room, Georgetown Detachment of the Halton Regional Police Service, 217 Guelph St., Georgetown.

Acton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society will hold its Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Night, Tues., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church. All volunteers invited. Guest speaker Barbara Reiger.

Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group meetings held 3rd Thurs. of the month at 10 a.m. at the Social Services Building, Willow Street, Acton.

Living With Cancer groups meets every second Thursday at the Canadian Cancer Society, Milton Branch, 751 Main St. E. at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 877-5228 or 878-1876.

Meetings of the Region of Peel VBAC Support Group held the 1st Tuesday of each month and offer post-caesarean support and discuss birth options. Call 826-9467 or 873-2729. Special Needs Drop-In Centre of North Halton meets every

Wednesday at the Acton Legion, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call Susan at 873-1534 or Jane at 853-1756.

Pregnant teens: Prenatal classes designed specifically for teens, free of charge. Transportation provided, pregnancy counselling available. Call Susan Stuart at 844-5502 or Public Health Department for more information.

Halton Hills British Canadian Club meetings are held informally on the 1st Thursday of each month in the lounge of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, Georgetown, at 8 p.m. Call Dave at 873-2534 for more info.

Beta Sigma Phi Chapters in Georgetown and Acton. For meeting times please contact City Council President Betti Jamieson at 873-2098.

Acton Al-Anon Group is meeting every Wednesday at Acton Baptist Church, side entrance at 8 p.m. Everyone welcome. For further information contact Eleanor Patterson at 853-0331.

Volunteers

The Salvation Army will pick up appliances in working order. For more information call 853-3321.

Volunteer drivers for the Canadian Cancer Society, Georgetown Unit, needed to transport patients to and from the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. Reimbursement for mileage will be paid. Please contact the Georgetown Unit's office at 164 Guelph St., Georgetown, between 1-4 p.m. daily, or call the cancer office at 877-1124.

Halton Support Services is looking for mature individuals who are interested in contract positions working 4-15 hours per week teaching life skills to children with developmental handicaps. Instruction takes place in the child's home. If you are 18 or older call (416) 849-8000 for more information.

North Halton Distress Information Center - Fall training for volunteers will begin on Wednesday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. For more information call 877-1211.

Big Brothers is looking for men 18 years or older to volunteer 4 hours a week to a young boy from a father-absent home. For more information please call 847-7267 or 878-4756.

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