

Credit River pollution can be prevented

The future water quality of the Credit River rests with those municipalities, including Halton Hills, bordering this watershed, warns Charlie Worte, Credit Valley Conservation Authority Watershed Planning Manager.

A major Credit River pollutant is sediment caused by riverbank erosion due to development along the waterway.

To combat this problem the CVCA approached Halton Hills Council, and the other municipal councils whose jurisdiction includes a portion of the river, requesting the municipalities implement topsoil control bylaws.

However, only Mississauga has implemented the appropriate bylaw. The staffs of Brampton and Orangeville are currently drafting an appropriate bylaw, said Mr. Worte.

As for Halton Hills, Mr. Worte said he has received no information on the status of its bylaw.

Sediment is a pollutant because it contains heavy metals that are harmful to the water quality, said Mr. Worte. This type of material also endangers the river's trout population, he explained, because it settles on the trouts' spawning beds.

CVCA research showed municipal topsoil control bylaws are the most effective ways to prevent sediment from entering the river.

Mr. Worte said the bylaw forces developers to provide a sediment erosion control plan as condition to

receiving a building permit.

The current provincial legislation related to sediment erosion control only applies once construction on a project has been completed, he said.

"We, (CVCA), prefer to operate in prevention mode," said Mr. Worte.

Contacted Friday, Town Administrative Assistant, Stephen Thompson, predicted a top soil control bylaw will go before Council sometime this spring.

The bylaw is a priority, but other items have been more important, Mr. Thompson offered as explanation as to why Town councillors haven't already dealt with the bylaw.

Mr. Worte said sediment pollution hasn't been much of a problem during last while due to the slowdown in construction activity caused by the recession.

However, once the economy has recovered and development picks-up, the problem of sediment pollution will return if all Credit River watershed municipalities haven't already implemented top soil control bylaws, predicted Mr. Worte.



More than 60 Georgetown music students participated in the 8th Annual Ontario Conservatory of Music Christmas concert Sunday at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre in Georgetown. Pictured above

Georgetown-based Ontario Conservatory of Music teacher, Joanne Brown, leads some local beginner piano students through the piece, "Jolly Old St. Nick." (Herald Photo)

Centre helps students

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT

The Herald

To provide Halton students with up-to-date career information, the Halton Industry Education Council is setting up a Career Information Centre.

The council is in the process of finalizing the details of the project but plans to open the centre in Oakville by Feb. 28.

The centre will integrate resources from business, education, government, labour and community organizations for the purpose of helping students in Halton make effective transitions from school to the workplace, explained David Farrell, Executive Director of the newly formed Halton Industry Education Council.

He said students can begin to make use of the centre in Grade 8.

"Every Grade 8 student in Halton will be brought to the centre to explore career opportunities," he said. At the centre, students will be exposed to career options through a computer program known as 'Choices'. They'll also go through a process of "discernment" to help the student discover his or her interests and aptitudes.

Once they reach high school, students will be able to make private appointments with career counsellors to be hired by the centre.

"When they come back, we can help them relate their interests to their school curriculum," he said. "Our objective is to have the students see the relevance between education and where they want to go in life."

In February, the centre will have a manager and two full-time counsellors on staff, and as demand for the service increases, more counsellors will be hired.

Mr. Farrell admitted that public and school libraries also contain career information but said their information is often out-dated and incomplete.

"Because our centre will be a market-driven community based facility, it will have up-to-date information on what careers are opening up and what careers are going out," he said.



CHRISTMAS SAVINGS SPECTACULAR

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