



SUDDEN STORM: It was windy and white mid-morning Sunday when an unexpected storm coated Acton gardens, like this on Tidey Avenue, where the weeding had to wait. – Marie Shadbolt photo

Town Digest

Emergency response

The Town is ready and able to meet any and all emergencies with a recently updated Emergency Response Plan detailing who does what, when and where in the event of an emergency.

Deputy-Fire Chief Harry Olivieri briefed Town Council on the plan last Monday, and said he was “very happy and proud” to report that with Town Council’s approval of the plan, Halton Hills will continue to meet all Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act requirements.

Deputy-Chief Olivieri said two table top exercises – an Emergency Operation Centre exercise, and a hazardous materials leak exercise – demonstrated the Town is ready to respond to emergencies and potential evacuations.

Ward two Councillor Bryan Lewis said he did not want to describe the behind-the-scenes emergency preparedness work as “mind boggling” but assured the public they are “well looked after” in the event of an emergency.

Defibrillator training

Now that Halton has installed automated external defibrillators (AED) at 12 locations in Halton Hills, Town councillors want to ensure more people are trained to use them.

Halton recently announced creation of a database to document public access to the defibrillator program, which has trained 195 people in

the past six years. Staff report in Halton Hills, an automated external defibrillator was used once since 2005, but no details were released. The Region has installed public use defibrillators in Acton at the arena, pool, library and Dufferin Community Centre in Prospect Park.

Noting there had been a recent incident, not in Halton Hills, where the battery was dead on a public defibrillator, Acton Councillor Jon Hurst asked about checks and balances in the system.

Staff said there is a fairly rigorous maintenance schedule and a back-up system. Regional/Acton Ward one Councillor Clark Somerville, who has asked Regional staff to come to council to demonstrate and train the life-saving skills, noted that for \$30 you can buy a CRP and defibrillator training kit.

Rural waste survey

Rural residents with an opinion on whether Halton should extend weekly waste collection to rural areas are urged to respond to a survey being distributed by the Region.

It is third time rural residents have been asked if they want the service – the first two times, the answer was a resounding “no,” mainly based on the added cost. Before Halton implemented rural roadside Blue Box collections in 2004, 64 per cent of rural residents said they did not want roadside garbage and bulk waste collection.

A Halton memo said every other week garbage and scheduled bulk waste collection would cost an additional \$27.34 for each \$100,000 of assessment, or between \$75 and \$80 annually for a property assessed at \$300,000.

Surveys will be sent in the mail beginning the week of May 2, with a May 26 return date. For more information about rural waste collection, call Halton’s Director of Waste Management, Rob Rivers at 905-825-6000, ex. 8289, or by e-mail to rob.riversd@halton.ca

Risk Watch cash

The Town will contribute \$250 to help pay for a two-day Risk Watch Safety Blitz in Georgetown. Although the request did not meet criteria for funding under the Town’s Municipal Assistance Program, Acton Councillor Mike O’Leary persuaded councillors to take the money from a Town contingency fund.

Risk Watch, promoted by the Halton Hills Fire Department, is an education program that provides Kindergarten through Grade eight students with the knowledge and critical thinking skills to make smart and safe choices. Last year, 900 Grade four students from Acton and Georgetown received the Risk Watch training in fire and poisoning prevention, falls and playground injuries, bike and pedestrian safety, water and ice safety, and choking, suffocation and strangulation prevention.

Environmental Awards

Conservation Halton (CH) is extending the deadline for nominations for its annual Environmental Awards of Excellence until April 26 at 5 p.m. The awards recognize local environmental champions in our watershed for their efforts over the past year.

Award candidates may be nominated by any individual or organization, and can be submitted online through Conservation Halton’s website, www.conservationhalton.ca or by fax 905-336-7014.

If you know an individual, school, company or group who has worked hard to protect, preserve or enhance the environment then you can nominate them for an award in one

of five categories: Citizen, Community, Corporate, Education and Stewardship.

The Award recipients will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony on Thursday, June 2, at Conservation Halton in Burlington.

Residents of the watershed have inherited a rich natural legacy encompassing such features as the Niagara Escarpment, abundant wetlands, streams and many environmentally sensitive areas. One of the reasons these areas have been preserved and maintained is due to the fact that many groups and individuals are doing good conservation deeds. CH has been recognizing the efforts of these

natural champions since 1982 and the awards committee is looking forward to this year’s nominees.

For more information about the categories, the criteria and how to apply call Conservation Halton at 905-336-1158 or visit the Spotlight section on our website at www.conservationhalton.ca.

Since 1982, Conservation Halton has been recognizing people and organizations that have made significant contributions to conservation in the Halton watershed. Nominees have included such groups as teacher associations, scout and guide groups, naturalist clubs, corporations, government agencies, farmers, and private landowners.

Tree planting

The public is invited to join a team of nearly 400 volunteers planting 4,000 trees on Saturday, April 30, at the sixth annual Trees for Watershed Health Tree Planting. The planting will take place from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the Kelso Quarry, off Steeles Avenue, and adjacent to the Kelso Conservation Area.

The event is open to individuals, families or groups who pre-register. It is free of charge and includes a complimentary barbecue. Spaces tend to fill up early, so register your group or family now at www.conservationhalton.ca.

“The Trees for Watershed Health planting is a highlight of our spring calendar every year, it’s wonderful to see the community participation,” said Hassaan Basit, Conservation Halton’s Director of Communications Services.

Volunteers are reminded to dress according to the weather, wear waterproof boots and bring a shovel. The event will happen rain or shine. Registration for the event is required by Tuesday, April 26, and space is limited.



Notice to Property Owners: Destroy Noxious Weeds

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons in possession of land, in accordance with The Weed Control Act R.S.O. 1990, c. W.5., that unless weeds seeds and noxious weeds growing on their lands within the Town of Halton Hills are destroyed by the date of **June 1, 2011** and throughout the season, the Town of Halton Hills may enter upon the said lands and have weeds destroyed, charging the costs against the land in taxes as set out in The Weed Control Act.

The purpose of the Weed Control Act is to reduce the impact of noxious weeds on land used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

The Weed Control Act does not apply to noxious weeds or weed seeds on lands that are far enough away from any land used for agricultural purposes that they do not interfere with that use.

The Town earnestly solicits co-operation of all property owners. Complaints and inquiries may be made by telephone to the number listed below. Please note that dandelions, burdock and goldenrod are not considered noxious weeds with the Town of Halton Hills under The Weed Control Act; therefore, complaints concerning these weeds or any anonymous complaints cannot be accepted.

For the information of all property owners, the following are designated as noxious weeds in the Town of Halton Hills:

Common Barberry	European Buckthorn	Bull Thistle
Canada Thistle	Wild Carrot	Colt's Foot
Dodder	Goat's Beard	Johnson Grass
Knapweed	Milkweed	Nodding Thistle
Poison Hemlock	Poison Ivy	Proso Millet
Ragweed	Yellow Rocket	Russian Thistle
Scotch Thistle	Sow Thistle	Cypress Spurge
Leafy Spurge	Tuberous Vetchling	Chess
Giant Hogweed		

Complaints and inquiries should be directed to:
Kelly Withers, Community Standards Coordinator
905 873-2601 ext. 2330

Dated at the Town of Halton Hills this 13th of April 2011.
Suzanne Jones, Town Clerk

1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2