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**ROOKIE BALL ACTION**

Georgetown Eagles prove gracious  
 hosts in Ontario tourney  
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**THURSDAY,**  
 September 16, 2010

Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper

Taking  
 ribbon-cutting  
 to the  
 (m)axe

The Halton Hills Fire Department has been awaiting upgrades to its facilities for so long that its patience paid off with the opening of not one, but two new buildings last week. HHFD Chief Brent Marshall (left), Town of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette (centre) and Ward 3 Councillor Moya Johnson, chair of the fire department committee, use axes to perform the ceremonial cutting of the fire hose in front of the department's new headquarters at Eighth Line and 10 Sideroad. For more on the official opening ceremonies of both fire halls, see page 3.



Photo by Eamonn Maher

## Local youth obesity rates on the rise

By **CHRISTINA COMMISSO**  
*Special to the IFP*

Swapping video games for baseball bats is an idea one regional councillor offered to help curb obesity rates amongst Halton's youth, which according to a recent report are on the rise.

"You don't see a lot of kids out there playing soccer or baseball," said Halton Hills Councillor Clark Somerville. "When it's too warm they stay inside and play video games all day."

Staff unveiled the findings of the 2009/2010 Halton Youth Survey, which showed changes in obesity and drinking, smoking and cannabis use rates, during the region's Health and Social Services Committee meeting last week.

The survey was conducted by the Our Kids Network as part of a three-year cycle of data collection. The first cycle of the survey, examining Halton's Grade 7 and 10 students, was completed in 2006.

According to the survey, youth's body mass index has increased since the first survey. The percentage of overweight or obese Grade 7 students rose from 14 per cent in 2006 to 16 per cent in 2009. For Grade 10 students, that percentage increased from 20 to 22 per cent during the three-year span.

"This is what is consistent with what we're seeing across the county," said Dr. Bob Nosal, the region's medical officer of health. "We have launched the healthy weight strategy, it has been

See **YOUTH**, pg. 3

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