

Survey finds uptake slow for free dental program

Continued from pg. 1

• **Wait times:** Nosal said the health department spent a lot of time monitoring wait times at public health clinics. The majority of clinics have a one to two-week wait period for mental health services while wait times for mental health services in north Halton is five to six weeks and the longest wait is to see a children's psychologist at nine weeks. The department is looking at ways to shorten the wait, but Nosal added the times are comparatively on the lower end in Ontario.

• **Dental care:** Healthy Smiles Ontario, a no-cost dental program for children in low-income families, was implemented in Halton, but Nosal said the uptake has been slow. In order to qualify for the program a family's income must be less than \$20,000 and the family can't have any kind of dental insurance. The Region has received \$165,000 for a marketing program to promote the program. Nosal said uptake is now increasing.

Extra revenue from the Region's continued uploading of services to the Province will be going to the social and community services department in the 2012 budget, said Halton's Treasurer Jane McCaskill, to address issues surrounding assisted and affordable housing, low-



DR. BOB NOSAL

income supports and homelessness.

Action's taken in the social and community services department include:

• **Monthly transit pass:** A pilot program for subsidized transit passes for low-income residents was launched in September, but uptake in the program has been slower than expected. Commissioner of social services Sheldon Wolfson said staff is working on marketing the program and the eligibility criteria may have to be reexamined.

• **Housing:** Wolfson said the department will be increasing the number of rent-geared-to-income units and implement a Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy in 2012. The Region made the Halton Access To Community Housing (subsidized housing) process more efficient and reassigned staff from the waiting list to case management.

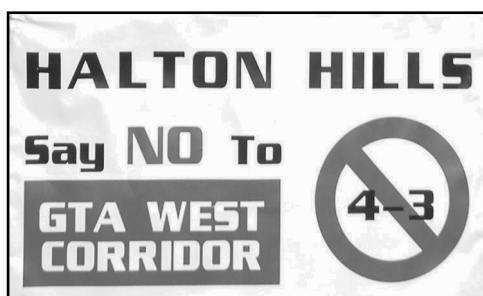
• **Long-term care for seniors:** The wait list for long-term care in Halton is 18 months to two years, which council said was "unacceptably long." Regional staff is working with the LHINs to increase the number of long-term care beds in Halton, which at last count was 230. Nosal added that the LHINs are also working on providing more home care, to keep seniors in their own homes for as long as possible and relieve some pressure on the wait list.

Remove 4-3 signs for winter— mayor

Mayor Rick Bonnette announced at a recent council meeting that more than 9,500 postcards protesting the proposed 4-3 highway option have been sent to the Minister of Transportation.

In August, the Ministry of Transportation extended the finalization of the GTA West Corridor Strategy until at least the spring of 2012.

Lawn signs have also been very effective in raising awareness about the campaign, but Bonnette says it's now



time to take them down- at least temporarily. He asked residents who still have lawn signs up to store them for the winter in order to avoid weather damage.

If no resolution is reached, Bonnette said residents will be asked to display the signs once again in the spring.

Arnott to shadow McGuinty

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott has been appointed Official Opposition Critic to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

In this new capacity, Arnott will be responsible for calling Premier Dalton McGuinty to account in his role as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. The Premier assumed this portfolio when the cabinet was sworn in last week.

"I'm looking forward to undertaking this new responsibility," Arnott said. "I want to be constructive and fair, but also vocal and firm."

It is also expected that Arnott will resume his former role of Presiding Officer (assistant Speaker) when the Legislature reconvenes in November.

"As always, my responsibility to the people of Wellington-Halton Hills comes first," Arnott said.

Free Event

University/College Information Night

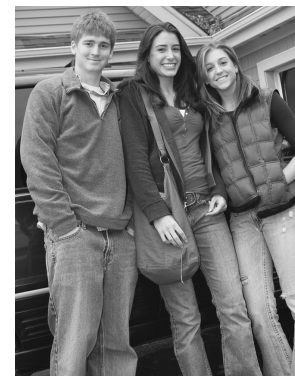
Hosted by Christ the King Catholic Secondary

Wednesday, Nov. 2nd, 2011 from 6-8 pm.

High school students and their parents will learn more about admission requirements, scholarships, residence, the application process, campus life as well as have an opportunity to speak in-person with many university/college liaison representatives and much more.

No pre-registration required.

Everyone Welcome!



PHYSIOTHERAPY

ERAMOS A



PHYSIOTHERAPY
www.eramosaphysio.com

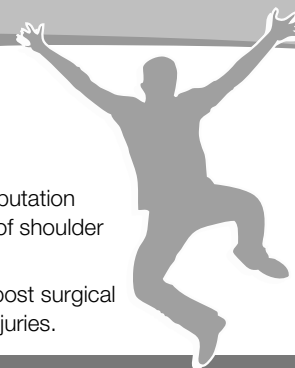
Now offering early morning and evening appointments - call us!

Acton 519.853.9292
Georgetown 905.873.3103

Growing to serve you better.

Eramosa Physiotherapy Associates (EPA) has a strong reputation in evidence-based physiotherapy, especially in the areas of shoulder and low back pain for people of all ages.

We also specialize in women's health, osteoarthritic and post surgical rehabilitation as well as other muscular pain and sports injuries.



Our locations: Elora, Guelph (Health and Performance Centre), Guelph (Bullfrog Mall), Cambridge, Orangeville

The McGibbon Hotel

LUNCH BUFFET SERVED THURSDAY & FRIDAY

Featuring:

11:30 am to 2:00 pm

- Roast Beef
- Baked Ham
- Sausage
- Assorted Salads
- Dessert Table
- Tea & Coffee

\$ **11.50**

HST INCLUDED

Private Catering Available

~ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ~

Fri. & Sat.
9:30 pm - close

Scenic Route

Rock n' Roll

79 Main Street South, Georgetown

905-877-3388