

Big Brothers Big Sisters could use youths' help

By **TIM KELLY**
Metroland Media Group

If you're in high school or older, area Big Brothers Big Sisters organizations need your help.

There are hundreds of youngsters just waiting for the chance to spend a little bit of time with you each week.

The local organizations have long histories of pairing young people with older 'bigs' in a winning combination from which everyone benefits.

What many don't realize is the Big organizations also offer many different pro-

grams beyond the traditional one-to-one relationship.

Aaron Murphy, diversity recruitment co-ordinator of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton, is hard at work trying to find volunteers to cut a waiting list that has grown to about 170 children. The catchment area includes Acton, Georgetown, Oakville, Milton and those in Burlington willing to come into Oakville. The office is located at 464 Morden Rd., Oakville.

"We need all the volunteers we can get," he said. Only on the job for about two weeks, he is trying to find matches in a

number of different areas.

Murphy said his organization is eager to match men and women 19-and-older one-on-one with "littles" aged 5-14 for weekly or bi-weekly visits. The minimum commitment is for one year so that a rapport can be built between the big and little brother or sister.

There are, however, a number of other programs in which volunteers can take part.

In-school mentoring allows a volunteer the chance to visit during the school day, once a week, and spend an hour with a child chosen by staff. The mentor can do arts and crafts, games, sports, or reading with the aim of helping the child socially.

"It may be a case of a child having trouble fitting in or with bullying. The mentor's role would be to help him or her out with that," said Murphy. The age range of children is from five to 12 and the program lasts for the duration of the school year.

Another school-related program is the homework club. The need for volunteers includes high-school aged students as well as adults. Each session runs 90 minutes during the school year.

The age range of children is from 5-18. The high school students act as mentors for the younger students while the adults are mentors for the high school students.

"If the high-school student has a question, the adult can answer that question for them. If the kids get rowdy, the adult can oversee the program. The adults can make

sure the kids are getting their homework done. Some children have started in the program, then have gone on to being high-school mentors and have finally become adult mentors," said Murphy.

The final after-school program is specifically for young teenage boys and girls aged 12-14. Called Go Girls and for boys, Game On, the programs are non-academic and take place once a week, after school. Game On is being tried as a pilot program in Georgetown while Go Girls is in place in several locations in Halton. It features a focus on active learning and living, positive body images, being healthy, balanced eating and writing, to name some examples. Requested volunteers should be between 18-28.

"We want young men and young women who can relate well to young teenagers and who can share their life experiences with them for Go Girls and Game On," said Murphy.

Finally, there is a group recreation program for children not yet matched. It involves a commitment of about four hours per month and involves such events as trips to Canada's Wonderland and floor-hockey tournaments.

"We're looking for volunteers 19 and older for the group recreation program. It can be used to see if volunteers like it," said Murphy.

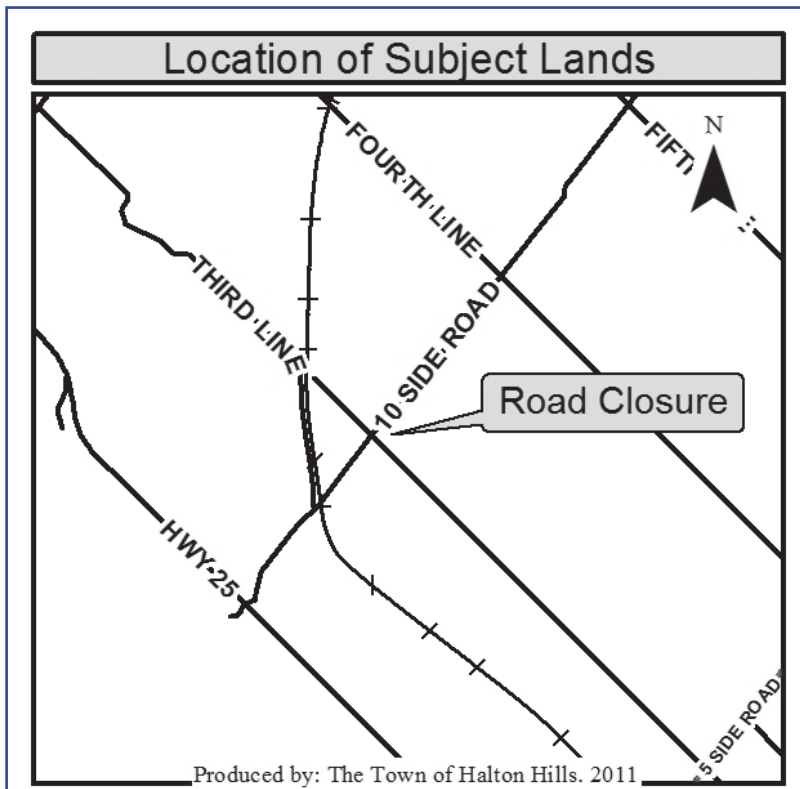
For more information, contact Murphy at 905-339-2355, ext. 220 or visit www.bbshalton.ca



ROAD CLOSURE

Third Line immediately south of 10 Side Road will be temporarily closed.

Specific notices and instructions will be provided to affected properties. The temporary road closure is required to facilitate the construction of the new Halton Region feeder watermain and Zone 5 Reservoir.



Contract Number: W-2649C
 Scheduled Start Date: Monday, November 7, 2011
 Scheduled Completion Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2011
 Contact Person: Marek Bracek
 Tel. No.: 905-825-6000, ext 7128
 Email: marek.bracek@halton.ca

To Do

- Lose weight ☹️
- Stop smoking ☹️
- Drink less ☹️
- Get a job ☹️
- Get a flu shot! 😊
- Get it at Young's! 😊

At least two of these things are easy and fun!

Experience Georgetown's "Best" FLU CLINIC!

Protect those you care about. Your free flu shot can reduce the chance of you passing the flu to someone less able to tolerate it.

- Enjoy refreshments
- Do some Christmas shopping in our gift and cosmetics departments
- Get a free medication review (some conditions apply)
- Take advantage of our many in store specials

Monday Nov. 7	Thursday Nov. 17
Tuesday Nov. 8	Wednesday Nov. 23
Wednesday Nov. 9	Clinics 10 AM to 7:30 PM

Book your appointment today 905 877-2711 + press 2

Young's Pharmacy & Homecare

www.youngspharmacy.com