

Meningitis scare concerns area residents

By STUART JOHNSTON

The recent outbreak of the sometimes fatal bacterial meningitis in the Ottawa/Hull area has not spread to Halton Region. But those planning extended trips to the area should seriously consider getting immunized, the Regional Health Department warns.

According to communicable disease supervisor Mary Anne Carson,

numerous parents, physicians and schools have contacted her department with concerns about the possibility of infection in Halton, and also seeking advice on what steps to take for those planning extended trips to Ottawa, Hull and St. Jerome in Quebec.

"The Ministry of Health (MOH) is recommending an immunization campaign for individuals in those

three areas that are six months to 19-years-old," Carson said in an interview Thursday. "We are almost swamped with calls from parents seeking information on where to get their kids immunized...It's really causing a lot of anxiety among parents, because they are just worried about their children...Those visiting the areas in the short term are not at risk — it takes an extended period for

the infection to occur."

The Regional Health Department will arrange vaccinations, she added.

However, exactly what constitutes "an extended trip" has not yet been defined by the MOH.

According to the latest Ministry statistics, 13 young people have died across Canada from Meningococcal Meningitis, a bacteria that can be fatal if medical treatment is not quickly

administered. Symptoms include headaches, vomiting, fever and stiff necks.

The highest concentration of the outbreak is around Ottawa, Hull and St. Jerome, high tourist or ski areas, where nine students have recently died. There have been no recent reports in Halton Region of this particular strain of meningitis, Carson noted.

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STILL NOTING

WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Power surges

Power surges throughout Halton Hills left many homes and businesses in dark for short periods Thursday and Friday. But Hydro officials were too busy trying to fix the problem to explain what's happening. Details will be available in Wednesday's edition.

Christmas Seals misses target

This year's Christmas Seal campaign has fallen behind its fundraising goal.

The Halton branch of the Lung Association campaign goal is \$175,000 and to date only \$160,000 has been collected. Funds raised through the sale of the seals support the Association's many community services as well as medical research.

The group is calling this a crucial stage of its campaign and requests supporters send their donations to top up the fund drive.

GLT benefit Thursday

Be sure to pick up your tickets to the benefit performance of "Opera Comique" performed by Georgetown Little Theatre, Jan. 23 at John Elliott Theatre and get your tickets to the cast party following the performance. The play and party are both in aid of the Georgetown Parent-Child Centre. Tickets to the cast party are \$10 and are available from the centre, located at St. Andrew's Church on Mountainview Road S. or at MVP Distributors, downtown and Delrex Smoke Shop in Georgetown Market Place.



The speedy response of both Halton Hills and Milton Fire Departments resulted in a fire being contained to the garage of a home on the Tenth Line, north of Steeles Avenue. Firefighters had to open up the roof

and take off some soffit to gain access to the flames. Damage from the blaze is estimated at \$7500. No one was home when the fire started Wednesday afternoon, and the cause is undetermined.

TED BROWN Halton Hills Weekend

Thieves make off with safe

Thieves made off with a safe weighing 200 lbs when they broke into a Pioneer Gas station on Maple Ave. and Trafalgar Rd., Georgetown overnight last Saturday. Police arrived at 5:26 a.m. and found a middle pane of glass had been removed from the front door.

American coins were left outside the front step, police said. Along with the steel safe, the culprits made off with charge slips from credit cards, \$1,500 cash, over \$2,000-worth of cigarettes, a calculator, some lighters and some coupons. Police said the total value of missing goods is \$5,129.

Premier wants legal review of FOAD documents

By STUART JOHNSTON

Pressure on the Ontario government to reject Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) plans to landfill the Acton Quarry before it reaches an environmental hearing may finally be showing positive results.

According to Rita Landry of the local citizens' group, FOAD (Furiously Opposed to the Acton Dump), Premier Bob Rae's office has asked the group to hand over their documents on the proposed dump to the Ministry of Environment (MOE) for a legal review.

Landry told *The Weekend* that Rae "wants this situation sorted out" as soon as possible, and has asked for another legal opinion on ways to handle the dump proposal.

"Obviously something's happening with the pressure we're applying - - Rae's office has finally asked the (Environment) Minister to straighten out exactly what she can or cannot do about the dump," Landry said. "They've asked for all our documents on it, which they will take to the (Provincial) legal department to find out why they have different opinions from the rest of us."

FOAD and POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) (SEE PREMIER ON PAGE 8)

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Sunday Brunch



Jack
TANNERS
TABLE

A casual relaxing mid-day meal among family and friends is a delightful activity for many on Sunday.

The cosy, country setting offers a warm and inviting feeling for your gathering.

For your enjoyment our chef prepares new & seasonal breakfast specialties each Sunday. Traditional favorites include our carving station and the popular Create Your Own Omelette Station.

Plus - fresh made waffles, a selection of country breads, fresh fruits and berries, pastries from *Dufflets*. Fruit Juices, homemade desserts and other creations to please your palate.

The tradition continues Sundays, at Jack Tanner's Table. Adults \$17.95, Children (12 & under) \$8.95

Reservations Recommended: 853-3440