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Thursday, April 23, 2015

Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper serving Acton & Georgetown

## Volunteers serve

Local volunteers receive the Ontario Service Award

See pages 22-23



## Community action

Our MPP, Mayor and Norval Community Association work together to help out a child.

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## A visit to the White House

While we may have been experiencing snow this Easter, the Lockwood girls of Georgetown experienced a very different environment. For them it was plus 22 C and sunny on the White House lawn! If the good weather was not enough they also got to participate with some of their Wallach cousins in the annual Easter Egg Roll, which the First Lady, Michelle Obama, officiated over in person! From left, Neve Lockwood, Hartley Wallach, Hannah Lockwood, Grace Wallach, Mackenzie Lockwood, TV celebrity Rachael Ray, and U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama.

Read more on pg. 8

Submitted photo

## Teacher talks continue in Halton— so far

By Tim Whitnell  
Metroland Media Group

(Details were unavailable before *The IFP's press time*).

Meeting dates are also set into May.

Public high school teachers are on strike in Durham Region, and those in Sudbury might walk off the job next week, but there are no such firm plans, yet, for Halton public school board teachers.

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) District 20 Halton Local President Brad Fisher said Monday he plans to meet the board's bargaining representatives, as planned, this Wednesday (April 22).

Fisher said nothing of note came out of an approximately six-hour meeting between the two sides on April 15.

"There were no major changes in positions, no major agreements. We're still talking. It's a slow, steady process. We might have something to say by Thursday (April 23)," said Fisher.

The Local president said the union has daily contact with the board on is-

sues not related to bargaining.

OSSTF Halton represents 1,300 permanent full- and part-time high school teachers at the Halton District School Board (HDSB).

Halton Secondary Occasional teachers (HSOT) is an affiliate of OSSTF District 20. It represents about 600 occasional teachers who fill in for permanent teachers when they are absent due to illness or leaves of absence.

Tom Beer is the president of HSOT.

The HSOT has been negotiating separately with the Halton board. The two sides have met six times with four

more sessions planned.

The Halton public board also has had three bargaining sessions with its permanent elementary teachers union and two sessions with the elementary occasional teachers, with more talks planned with both employee groups.

"So we are engaged with our local bargaining units and are having positive and productive discussions related to local issues," Jeff Blackwell, the board's acting executive officer of human resources, said in an email.

Contract talks broke off at the pro-

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