

CAS gets a dozen requests for help every day

As October is Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) and the Halton Children's Aid Society (CAS) is highlighting how calls from the community play a vital role in preventing child abuse.

In 2014, more than 171,000 Ontarians reached out to CAS with concerns about the safety of a child. In Halton in 2014, CAS received more than 4,400 requests for services and completed more than 2,000 investigations, which equates to a dozen requests per day from the public for service and the launching, on average, of more than five investigations per day.

The Halton CAS provides community-based services in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville.

In Halton, 97 per cent of children and youth remain in their own homes with only three per cent going into care, of which three-quarters are over the age of 12, stated a Halton CAS press release. More than 91 per cent of its protection workers reach out by working directly in schools, counseling agencies and with Halton Regional Police.

Halton CAS says it relies on the generosity of donors and the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton to support youth in its care to continue their education and transition into adulthood.

"Leading child welfare researchers say there

needs to be more education about what a referral to Children's Aid means because many people feel guilty after they make that call," stated a Halton CAS press release.

"People are concerned that Children's Aid Societies are child snatchers. They do not realize connecting to Children's Aid means getting access to a level of in-home, on-site services that no other social service will provide the way Children's Aid Societies do," Nico Trocmé, director of the School of Social Work at McGill University in Montreal, said in the same press release.

"(The) focus on in-home, early intervention services is part of the transformation of the Ontario child welfare system that started a decade ago. The approach is based on the recognition that early intervention can reduce the need for more intrusive services later and that children flourish in a caring family setting," added the press release.

Early intervention services offered by CAS include counselling and parenting programs and substance abuse treatment.

Teachers, followed by police, make the highest number of referrals to a CAS in Ontario. Professionals and the public are required by the Child and Family Services Act to promptly report any abuse or neglect suspicions.

Visit <http://haltoncas.ca> for more information about the Halton CAS.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

Acton Reservoir Expansion Town of Halton Hills (Acton) PR-2784

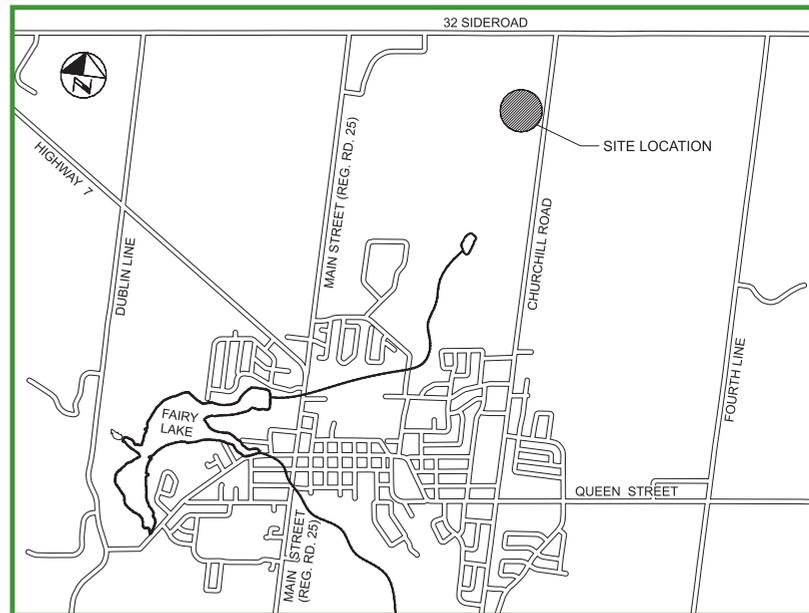
Halton Region is planning to expand the Acton Reservoir within the Town of Halton Hills (Acton) beginning spring of 2016.

A Public Information Centre will be held for residents who want to learn more about the construction project. Please drop in at any time. Halton staff will be available to answer your questions.

Date: Tuesday October 27, 2015
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Place: Acton Arena & Community Centre - Hall C
415 Queen Street, Acton

If you would like to learn more about the project and are unable to attend the Public Information Centre, please contact:

Caroline Hales
Project Manager
Halton Region
905-825-6000, Ext. 7612
caroline.hales@halton.ca



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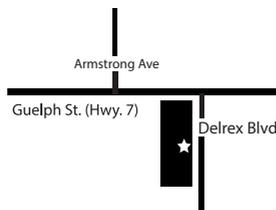
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Make an informed decision this Federal Election

On September 23, Halton Region sent local federal election candidates a questionnaire that profiles five of the community's growth-related issues and asks how they would address these challenges if elected. Candidate responses, as they are received, have been posted on the Region's website to help you make an informed decision about the future of our region. A strong Halton helps build a strong Canada, and I encourage all residents to stay informed and cast their ballot on Election Day (October 19). To view candidate responses and learn more about the issues facing the Region, visit halton.ca/election2015.



Gary Carr
Regional Chair

Meetings at Halton Region, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville, L6M 3L1
Visit halton.ca/meetings for full schedule.

- Nov. 3 9:30 a.m.** Health & Social Services Cttee.
- Nov. 4 9:30 a.m.** Planning & Public Works Cttee.
- Nov. 4 1:30 p.m.** Admin & Finance Cttee.
- Nov. 12 9:30 a.m.** Regional Council



Please contact us as soon as possible if you have any accessibility needs at Halton Region events or meetings.