

## Local pollution prevention program launched

A major pollution prevention initiative was launched Sunday in Georgetown by Trout Unlimited Canada and volunteers from Izaak Walton Fly Fishermen's Club.

Officially called the Yellow Fish Road Storm Drain Marking Program, volunteers paint yellow fish symbols near storm drains in their neighborhoods and distribute information to discourage indiscriminate dumping of hazardous household chemicals in these drains.

"Many people do not realize that most storm drains flow directly into our rivers and lakes and as a result, they pour toxic materials such as paint, oil, antifreeze, pesticides and cleaning agents down the drains," says Monique Koehli, Coordinator of the SDMP for

the Credit Valley Watershed. The yellow fish symbol serves to remind people that what goes into street storm drains can end up in our waterways and cause harm to human health and wildlife, she commented.

Koehli remarked, "It's said that the best learning comes from doing and in that send the Storm Drain Marking Program is ideal for teaching children about pollution because they can actually get involved and do something about it."

In Ontario, Trout Unlimited Canada and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans joined forces to produce an implementation kit with specific guidelines on approaching municipalities for permission to mark storm drains and an instructional guide for actually doing the

marking. Various information pieces are provided for distribution to households that outline the concerns and provide the location and telephone number of the community waste disposal centre.

There are six participants in each marking team who perform various tasks. They are outfitted with safety vests and are carefully instructed in all safety procedures such as the importance of traffic pylons. In the case where children are involved, close adult supervision is also a key part of this environmental education program.

Koehli, who coordinates the program out of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for Trout Unlimited, said that Trout Unlimited Canada is proud to be playing a role in coordinating the Storm Drain Marking pro-

gram. "We're indebted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the partners in the Great Lakes Action Plan for their support which enabled us to launch the Ontario campaign," says Koehli.

The Great Lakes Action Plan is a federal government program to clean up and prevent pollution in the 17 Canadian Areas of Concern designated by the International Joint Commission in the Great Lakes Basin. The Plan comprises three major components; the Clean-Up Fund, the Health Effects and Preservation programs. While Trout Unlimited will initially focus on getting Storm Drain Marking Programs underway in Ontario communities, Ms. Koehli said that any interested volunteers are encouraged to call her at 670-1615 or toll free 1-800-668-5557.



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Are you staying in your marital home or in an abusive relationship? Staff will offer support, counsel and provide you with information.

Halton Women's Place crisis line is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Staff will offer support, counseling and information confidentially over the phone.

The crisis line phone number is 878-8555; the business number is 878-7757.

Remember: You need to be informed, relaxed and give yourself the time to think about all your options. You are not alone and there is help available for you and your children.



Introducing the actors! The Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department's Children's Theatre Camp staged its performance of "Night Light" last Thursday at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown. The play was written and performed by the Children's Theatre Camp. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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