

Opinion

Halton Hills THIS WEEK

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PUBLISHER: Ken Bellamy EDITOR: Colin Gibson
 PRODUCTION MANAGER: Kathleen Topolek CIRCULATION MANAGER: Marie Shadbolt
 OFFICE MANAGER: Jean Shewell

HALTON HILLS THIS WEEK IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.

PHONE: 873-2254

FAX: 873-3918

Let the school year begin - safely

It doesn't seem that long ago that the Labor Day Weekend was just a shoved-aside blurred vision in the future, hovering in the backs of our minds as we enjoyed the lazy, hazy, crazy days of the summer of '93.

It has indeed been a glorious summer - the best, perhaps in years. One that definitely shunts aside the waterlogged memories of last summer when rubber boots and hip waders were more in fashion than sandals and bare feet.

Now, the final long weekend of the summer is upon us and the school year is about to begin.

Stressing safety and caution for youngsters, their parents and drivers is paramount.

For those just entering the education stream, the first tentative steps can be traumatic.

The Halton School Bus Safety Committee, which held sessions at both Georgetown District High School and Acton High School last Saturday, has some hints to make the transition easier for parents and youngsters alike. We would like to share them with our readers.

Colin Gibson

Think! Think! Think Safety!

Starting school can be a scary experience for your child. Watching him or her get onto a large bus and drive away can be just as scary for you! Some time spent together before the big day can make it a little easier for both of you.

- Talk about the bus ride in a positive manner. Treat it as an adventure! Try not to transfer any feelings of apprehension you may have to your child.

- Walk with your child to the bus stop a few times before school starts. Try to visualize the routine with him or her. Let him or her know there will be older kids on the bus with them one way. Also explain the route the driver takes won't necessarily be the same one you would take if you were driving, but it will end up at the same place that (s)he got on.

- Give your child a tote bag or a back pack. One item to carry is much easier to manage than many little pieces.

- Allow your child to wear or carry a name tag. This can be placed in his/her lunch box or backpack. Include your child's name, phone number, school, bus number and stop location. Make sure your child knows where it is. This will allow the bus driver to make sure (s)he gets to the right place if (s)he gets disoriented, and allows us to contact you, if necessary.

- Make sure your child is dressed for the weather. Many children wait at their stops in cold weather without benefit of a hat or mittens! Wet weather needs boots, raincoats and umbrellas. Two or three hours is a long time to be in class in wet clothing!

- In order that the school can make sure your child gets on the correct bus to go home, keep them informed of any change in your address or your day-care arrangements. Early notice of a change in address will avoid delays in getting transportation arrangements changed.

- Keep the phone number of the bus company and the transportation department handy. Knowing the route number of your child's bus and the school (s)he attends will make it easier to answer your questions if you need information or if you have any concerns.

- During the inclement weather, listen to the radio for information on school closings or cancellation of transportation. The following radio stations broadcast this information:

CFRB 1010, CHML 900, Y95 95.3 (FM), Oldies 1150, CHWO 1250, CING 108 (FM) CJOY 1460, CBC 740, CKFM, CFNY 102 (FM), CHFI 98.1 (FM)

Note that parents have the right to make the final decision in sending children to school during inclement weather.

The People's Corner

Marketplace blood donor clinic a success

To the Editor:

The Georgetown Red Cross Blood Donor Committee would like to thank all who attended our

Coping with bereavement

The death of someone close to us is one of life's most stressful events. It takes time to heal and each individual responds differently. They may need help to cope with the changes in their lives, but in the end, coping effectively with bereavement is vital to one's mental health.

A workshop to be held in Oakville Sept. 24 will help caregivers to facilitate the grief experience of someone close to them. Counseling the Bereaved is a day-long workshop which will be offered by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Halton Region Branch at the Branch's Oakville office.

Participants will have an opportunity to examine personal responses to loss, study normal and complicated grief, be aware of how an understanding of normal grief can be applied to special grief experiences, develop grief facilitator skills through hands-on practice and recognize the importance of self-care.

The workshop will be presented by David Masecar, M.A. For the past several years, David has provided workshops, consultation, and clinical services with respect to suicide prevention, intervention and bereavement issues. He is a trainer for the bereavement workshops offered by the Suicide Prevention Training Program in Calgary, Alberta and is a board member for the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention.

CMHA, Halton Region, as a branch of a national, voluntary association, provides people in Halton Region with opportunities to enhance their mental health, and to increase their understanding and acceptance of mental health issues, through: support services, consumer and community involvement, education and advocacy.

Pre-registration is required by Sept. 9, for the "Counseling the Bereaved" workshop. To register or for more information about any of the programs offered by CMHA throughout Halton, please call Kenzie at (416) 681-6776.

second summer clinic on Fri., Aug. 27. The collection of 85 units was a welcome addition to the Blood Bank.

We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the Georgetown Marketplace in providing a site in the southeast mall for this community clinic, the generosity of A&W Root Beer for donating drink coupons and the

patience of our "neighbors", Crazy Lee's and Supreme Hair Styling. Promotional and organizational help was offered by volunteers, Flo Street and Janet Deans, and clinic coordinator, Barbara Vivash.

These donors reached the following award levels:

35th pin and certificate - David Street

20th pin - Kathleen Williams

10th pin - Carol Boyd, Karen Strzelba, Frances Walker

Our next public clinic will be held in Holy Cross Church Auditorium on Mond., Nov. 8.

Gerry Purdy
Chairman



"It's the first time in along time" Angela Hermelijn said that she had given blood, but daughters Savannah (left) and Shari were at her side offering support Aug. 27 at a Special Summer Blood Clinic hosted by the Georgetown Unit of the Canadian Red Cross at the Georgetown Marketplace Mall. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW



Town of Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller (far left) received the "Blue Bird" flag of the Canadian Arthritis Society from (left to right) Bruce Lampkin, Treasurer of the Acton Branch of the Knights of Columbus, Doug Tucker, Arthritis Campaign chairman of the Georgetown Branch of the Knights of Columbus, and Tony Blencowe, Deputy Grand Knight of the Georgetown Branch of the Knights of Columbus last Wednesday at the Civic Centre in Georgetown, recognizing September as Arthritis Month. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Letters Welcomed

Halton Hills This Week welcomes your letters. Letters must be signed and include your full name and address. Names will be withheld on request.

Halton Hills This Week reserves the right to edit,

revise, or reject any letters on the basis of factual errors, punctuation, spelling errors or as a result of space limitations. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of Halton Hills This Week.

Send your letter to:

The Editor
 Halton Hills This Week
 232 Guelph St., Unit 9
 Georgetown, ON
 L7G 4B1
 Or fax to:
 416-873-3918