

Meningitis scare downplayed in Halton

By Oksana Buhel

Halton Regional health and school board officials are maintaining the meningitis scare in neighboring Peel Region is not a danger in Halton, but are still closely monitoring the situation.

Chris Jewell, communications officer for the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board, maintains the students of Halton are not at risk and, for the meantime, vaccination will not be necessary.

Catherine Rankin, superintendent of secondary schools for the Halton Board of Education, agreed with Jewell. She said students were not at risk, but said she has spoken

with school officials, preparing them for the expected barrage of telephone calls from concerned parents. Rankin added printed information will not be distributed because it is "not appropriate."

She explained the board will act at the direction of the regional health department, with which both boards have kept in close contact.

Mary-Ann Carson, regional supervisor of communicable diseases program, explained she is maintaining daily contact with Peel Region health department, and the Ministry of Health. "We are constantly receiving the most current information on the status of the situation in Peel," she

said.

Carson explained the vaccine for the disease is distributed by the ministry and should the situation in Peel change, the vaccine will be promptly issued.

Halton residents are nevertheless advised to avoid sharing cigarettes, drinking glasses and food utensils. The disease can also be spread through sneezing, coughing and kissing. Adults seem to be less susceptible to the disease - the most vulnerable age group being teenagers.

Flu-like symptoms characterize the disease: vomiting, fever, drowsiness, headache and a stiff neck - but they can quickly worsen.

The virus is active in the body for approximately 10 days. The vaccine used to treat it becomes most potent after two weeks and lasts approximately two years.

Two teenagers in Peel have died in two weeks and three secondary schools have taken precautionary measures to protect students. Mississauga's Clarkson Secondary School students were vaccinated Tuesday and Wednesday when Grade 9 student Andre Pysanczyk died last Saturday morning.

On Oct. 6, Grade 11 student Cheryl Lamb of Mayfield Secondary School in Caledon, died of the disease.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, three Streetsville students were stricken by the disease, but were treated successfully and are now recovering.

Peel Region has had to set up a "meningitis hotline", which handles approximately 700 to 1,000 calls daily.

Although Halton Regional health officials insist Halton students are not at risk, any one with questions about the disease can call the health department at (905) 825-6060.



Final touches

Trudy Thomas of Up Up and Away Balloons on Main St. in Georgetown, is busy putting the finishing touches to her Halloween window display.

photo by Jen Valois/HHTW

Be wary of certain salesmen

By Oksana Buhel

Police are advising Halton Hills residents to check the legitimacy of door-to-door salesmen selling goods or services following two reports of a suspicious person on the same day in the same area.

Two Durham and John St. residents complained Wednesday about a salesman who, according to a police report, "went beyond a nor-

mal sales pitch, and beyond what was appropriate." The man apparently entered the homes and extensively inspected their interiors. At the first residence, the man was selling window bars but at the second residence, the man was marketing home renovation services.

The man is described as white, between 28-30 years of age, 5'10", weighing approxi-

mately 170 lb. He has short, dark brown hair, was clean-shaven, wore dark clothing and carried a duffle bag.

Residents are advised to contact the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce (877-7119) or the Better Business Bureau (766-3222) if they have any suspicions about the legitimacy of door-to-door salesmen or call police if they exhibit suspicious behavior.

Halton Hills This

WEEKEND

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During Georgetown Minor Hockey Association novice action last Saturday at Memorial Arena, Georgetown Firestone goalie Brandon Pearce was in good form, stopping the Speedy Muffler Mighty Ducks scoring attempts.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Lights ok'd at Steeles and Ninth Line

By Oksana Buhel

After 11 accidents in three years, traffic lights will be installed at the intersection of Steeles Ave. and Ninth Line in Halton Hills. However, regional staff insists the project was not influenced by the accident numbers.

At the Oct. 13 Halton Regional Planning and Public Works Committee meeting, councillors accepted the tender of Guild Electric Limited of Scarborough for the installation of traffic signals, illumination, pavement markings and traffic controllers at the intersection.

Despite the high number of accidents, which occurred between 1990-1992 (1993 figures are not yet available) Nick Zervos, regional transportation coordinator, maintains two volume warrants indicated a need for traffic lights at the intersection. The first warrant measured the vehicular volume at all

approaches, and the second measured the delay to cross-traffic, from Ninth line onto Steeles.

Zervos further explained accidents such as the one on June 16, when Brampton resident Susan Warnaar was killed when her eastbound car was hit by an oncoming vehicle which strayed over the yellow line, had "no bearing" on the decision to install lights because the accident did not occur directly at the intersection and traffic lights would

not have prevented it.

Although the intersection is within the boundaries of Halton Hills, it is under regional jurisdiction. Committee members also approved the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Steeles Ave. and Fourth Line in Milton, and the construction of a right turn lane at the intersection of Derry Rd. and Ontario St. in Milton. The three projects will cost approximately \$150,000 in total.

Stolen Jeep torched

By Oksana Buhel

The day after a 36-year-old Brampton man was arrested for a crime spree in Norval, the Jeep Cherokee he stole was found gutted by fire.

On Oct. 2, the man was involved in the theft of the 1989 Jeep as well as two thefts of wallets - one from a car, one from a house. The Jeep was stopped the same day in Peel Region, but the officer was not aware of the warrant for the suspect. The 36-year-old was arrested Oct. 11 at his residence and charged with theft over \$1,000 and theft under \$1,000.

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