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STRETCH TO THE SKY!

Simone Million-Birch eyes Acton School of Dance instructor Susanne Keith during a stretching exercise at Saturday's class at St. Alban's church hall. (Eve Martin photo)

Breast cancer a 'concern' here

Delmore: cancer rates deserve closer look

BY FRANÇES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Although Halton Health Department staff don't think that Halton Hills is a cancer "toxic hot spot" as identified in a Health Canada Laboratory Centre for Disease Control report, they admit that the instance of breast cancer is higher in Halton Hills than in the rest of the province.

The Federal report — a Cancer Incidence Atlas — described a cancer hot spot as an area where cancer rates are at least 25 per cent above the provincial average. The report, done in the mid 1980s, showed Halton Hills as a toxic hot spot for breast and lung in women and bladder cancer in men.

Halton epidemiologist Terry Delmore told Town councillors on Monday night that more recent studies of cancer incident rates show that breast cancer rates are 22 per cent higher than expected and "deserves closer looking at."

When questioned about the accuracy of the federal report, Delmore said it was very accurate.

"I have confidence in the report. I don't think that the newspapers (that reported the toxic hot spots) were incorrect on what they reported on, but I don't think they looked as carefully at the report's graphs as they should have.

"Certainly, in some cases the instances of cancer were higher than expected (here) but to call Halton Hills a toxic hot spot — that's a bit of exaggeration."

Delmore also listed a number of cautions in the report including the fact that the number of reported cases are dependent on the level of ascertainment, that the movement of people can obscure real variations in incident rates

and that chance alone is responsible for some rates that are statistically significant.

Delmore said that 29 per cent of all cancers are tobacco-related and 20 per cent are diet-related. "If there is one known cause of cancer it's tobacco. It's a shame that the government lowered taxes on cigarettes and allowed advertising. It's a crime," Delmore said.

Barbara Halsall, past-president of Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER) claimed the incidence of breast cancer was 1-in-20 in the 1960s and is now 1-in-9 and said something has happened.

"I think it would be very useful, with our health care costs going through the roof, to try and identify what are those additional factors. We don't know; I mean is the Beardmore tannery a problem?"

Delmore replied "not for breast cancer" and following the meeting said that "certainly the chemicals associated with the tanning industry — there isn't evidence from my reading, at this time, that they are associated with breast cancer."

Parker dies at age 34

Celebrated former Acton figure skater Kevin Parker died Saturday at age 34.

Funeral service for Parker was this morning (Wednesday) at 11 am at Shoemaker Funeral Home in Acton.

Donations can be made on behalf of Parker to the AIDS Foundation or the Wellesley Hospital in Toronto.

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THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

Sunday October 8th and Monday October 9th, 1995

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Traditional Brunch Favourites freshly prepared and presented in a *buffet style* selection of Cold, Hot and Flambeéd Items.

Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet

Roast Turkey with Fresh Herb Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, Turkey Gravy, Glazed Ham, Fresh Vegetable Medley and Mashed Potatoes. Includes Salad Buffet and Dessert Buffet.

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DINNER: 5:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

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