

Conservation Halton gets good report card

by Donna Danielli

The artist Robert Bateman once remarked, "Some of the most elegant and charming parts of the world are those areas where traditional human settlement and activities have a gentle and compatible interface with nature. Large sections of the Halton watershed remain like this today." Conservation Halton has developed a plan called "Inspired by Nature" to protect and enhance the natural environment and has recently published its Watershed Report Card. This report card is published every three years, in conjunction with a major review of the strategic plan.

Eight environmental indicators are used to determine the health of the watershed. These indicators are water quality, forest health, creek flows, development, wetland habitat, natural corridors, wildlife, and support and enjoyment.

The report card gives Conservation Halton a mark of "A" in the areas of promoting land stewardship, developing watershed plans, and an "A-" in improving governance and operations. The mark of "B" was given in the areas of protecting forests, integrating environmental planning with community growth, providing a flood control and warning program, and managing parks in sustainable ways. Conservation Halton received the mark of "B+" in the categories of maintaining healthy creeks, and educating people about natural heritage, while a "B-" was given for developing long-term funding principles. The only mark of "C" was given in the category of acquiring natural areas, reflecting the impact of the expected doubling of population in Conservation Halton's watershed over the next 20 years and the reduction in recent years of funding for land acquisition.

The report reflects Conservation Halton's concern for water control structures and states, "Conservation Halton believes that flood control and water management should be a shared responsibility as it involves human safety and the protection of Ontario's creeks and rivers."

The report also makes sure to praise the watershed municipalities for their budgetary support over the past three years. These watershed municipalities have shown support for environmental protection and conservation. However, the Province of Ontario is taken to task in the report which says, "The Province of Ontario's financial support for Conservation Halton has been cut by almost 70 per cent during the past several years. The Province needs to recognize and increase support for the efforts of Ontario's conservation authorities which have the expertise and an effective track record."

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the report providing feedback on it are encouraged to contact Theresa Maguire-Garber, CAO, Conservation Halton at 905-336-1158 or by e-mail at admin@hrca.on.ca.

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Tooth Chatter

by ALEX TRENTON, DENTURIST



Changes with prolonged denture wear

Dentures is the most abused prosthetic aid to our well-being. They are mixed up with old sets, worn ill matched, broken and stuck together incorrectly, worn in two or three pieces, flushed down toilets, lost at sea, thrown at immovable objects, eaten by dogs, stamped on, and used for whittling by retirees!

The emergence on the scene in the recent years of the "Denture Therapist" or "Denturist" has meant a closer and a more individual concept of patient-professional relationship. With this individual attention, fewer dentures will finish up in the bottom drawer! Your mouth is constantly changing as you grow older, whereas your dentures are hard and unyielding. Visits to your Denture Clinic at least once every year are recommended.

Proper Fit

At the first sign of ill-fitting dentures you should have them checked. If your denture is loose and falls down it could be a number of things. Your gums may have shrunk or your bite may have changed. A denture that doesn't touch or "come together" correctly when biting may become dislodged. (Filling your dentures with gels or quick set plastic to secure them is a temporary solution that could give you a permanent problem).

In addition, dentures are an artificial appliance and therefore have limited life expectancy. However, with today's materials, counselling and proper denture care, a patient should experience years of denture health and comfort.

The musculature of the mouth is very intense and tightly knit in its operations of speech and chewing. These factors in combination with an extremely demanding daily routine of chewing and speaking from morning until evening combine to wear down even the most durable of denture materials. As long as you are aware of the changes that take place and do something about what is happening you can ensure that your mouth will remain in a healthy state. If your dentures are not fitting or not looking as good as they should, give our office a call for a no-charge checkup/consultation.

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Aug. 18/19	Garlic is Great Festival
Oct. 21	Barn Dance Show