

## New tools for rural voluntary sector

Special to The Compass

Rural organizations are getting new tools for the voluntary sector. The Ontario Rural Council (TORC), in partnership with Volunteer Canada, is launching a new initiative this fall to adapt voluntary sector resources to rural needs.

The project, titled *Valuing the Rural Volunteer*, focuses on identifying and building upon existing voluntary resources, tailoring them to rural needs and disseminating these resources across rural Ontario.

"The Ontario Rural Council is in the unique position, because of the nature of our organization, to be flexible and responsive in support of volunteers in rural Ontario," says Patricia Smith, chair of The Ontario Rural Council's Voluntary Sector Working Group. "We will work to modify tools for local communities."

Currently many of the pro-

grams and tools available to support volunteer organizations are not specifically directed to the rural sector. These resources are not readily accessible to many rural organizations and communities that operate without professional volunteer administrators or the support of a volunteer centre, and do not have strong links with organizations that provide extension to rural areas.

The *Valuing the Rural Volunteer* project will prepare resources that stimulate rural volunteerism, support rural organizations, and lead to the development of new skills that will help organizations to thrive.

This 18 month initiative has received a grant of \$162,500 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. With \$100 million in annual funding from the province's charitable

gaming initiative, the foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social service sectors.

The Ontario Rural Council brings together 40 organizations, private corporations and government representatives who share a commitment to building strong rural organizations and communities. The Council provides a unique and important opportunity for multi-sector cooperation within the rural community. Members identify issues, and collaborate to develop innovative solutions and strengthen rural voices.

*Valuing the Rural Volunteer* is a project of the Council's Voluntary Sector Working Group. For more information on this project, contact The Ontario Rural Council at 519-826-4128.

## Milton's master plan well under way

by Stacey Massey

It's no secret Milton is on the verge of major expansion. A short drive around town will uncover new roads, homes and other buildings where open fields used to be.

With the increased development many residents are wondering what it means for the numerous parks and recreation facilities as well as trails located throughout rural and urban Milton.

Currently the Town of Milton parks and facilities development committee is working to finish their master plan for proposed trail development throughout the old and new town developments.

"We're keeping our finger on the pulse of what's happening," Ken McAlpine, coordinator of parks & facilities development said. "We're very close to finalizing our plan."

Over the past year the Town of Milton community services department has been consulting with community groups, conservation authorities, other municipalities, and other community members to get feedback on how they would like to see Milton expand.

Mr. McAlpine said the main focus is on the changes that will occur in urban Milton.

"What we're dealing with here

is a complete town wide system with concentration on the urban core," he said.

"There will be a lot of trails linked through parks with links to outlying rural destinations as well as the new developments."

If the plan is approved the rural areas will be sanctioned primarily for cycling.

"There's some wonderful routes right on the concessions," Mr. McAlpine said. "Other than the Guelph Line, most routes are potentially designated on-road biking routes."

The community services department has received support from various businesses that will assist in keeping costs minimal.

As of yet there is no date for the master plan to be presented to Council.

## Young Speakers for Agriculture deadline approaching

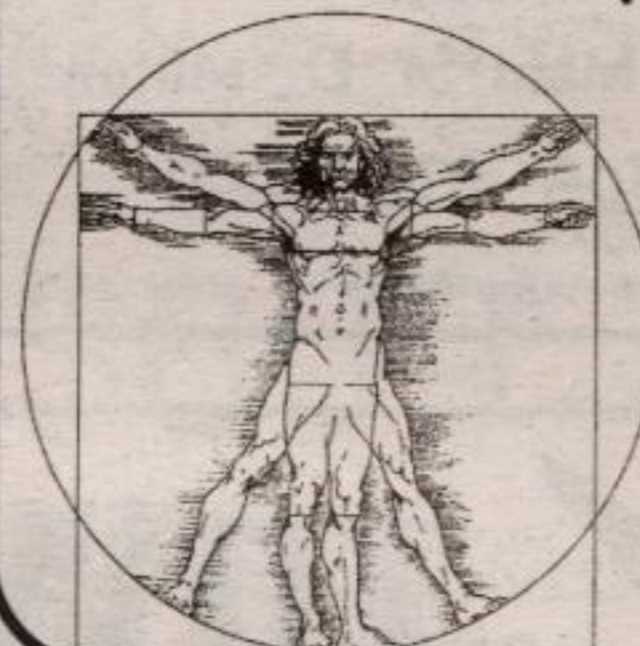
Young Speakers for Agriculture is an exciting, national opportunity for young people, between the ages of 16 and 24, to present a prepared, five to seven minute speech at the prestigious Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, held this year on Saturday, November 3, 2001.

Presentations can be prepared on one of the following five topics: *Celebrating "International Year of the Volunteer"; Farming - A Way of Life or a Business?; Where does our food come from? Should we care?; Environmental Stewardship - Sharing the Responsibility; The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair - Sustaining Canada's Agricultural Showcase.*

The application deadline is September 14. Call Ted Young for an application 519-824-9253.

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## Tooth Chatter



by ALEX TRENTON, DENTURIST

### Old Age is Golden?

There is nothing the matter with me, I'm healthy as can be. I have arthritis in both of my knees, and when I talk, I talk with a wheeze. My pulse is weak and my blood is thin, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet, or I shouldn't be able to be on the street. Sleep is denied me night after night, but every morning I find I'm alright. My mem'ry is failing, my head's in a spin, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

How do I know that my youth is all spent? Well, my "get up and go" has got up and went. But I really don't mind when I think with a grin, of all the grand places my "get up" has been.

Old age is golden, I've heard it said, but sometimes I wonder as I get into bed, with my ears in the drawer, "my teeth in a cup," my eyes on the table until I wake; E're sleep comes o'er me, I say to myself: "Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?"

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