

Mid-Pen Highway *continued from page 1*

Jason Thorne, CONE's executive director, "nor has it demonstrated that the other possible alternatives have been appropriately and comprehensively evaluated."

In a March 12 report, Jennifer Lawrence of Conservation Halton recommended that if the environmental assessment's focus is only on highway route selection for the transportation corridor, then the Minister of the Environment should reject the assessment's terms of reference.

Adding to the complexity of this issue is the government's introduction of Bill 25, Smart Transportation Act, 2003. Barbara Sullivan, Liberal candidate in Halton, declares: "This bill will have a direct impact on the government's ability to push the mid-peninsula highway through the Niagara Escarpment in Halton. Requirements for a full environmental assessment are slashed and the only environmental assessment required would be for the actual building of the road."

Mr. Chudleigh agrees. "It's a streamlined environmental assessment. A full environmental assessment is extremely expensive and takes a huge amount of time. There are a limited number of issues in the environment that would be impacted by a highway. The proposal in this bill is that when you're building a highway, it would be only those issues that would be looked at."

Comments on the environmental assessment's terms of reference are being invited by the Ministry of the Environment until June 20. More information is available at the government consultants' site: www.midpeninsulahighway.on.ca.

Summer Fun for Halton's Kids



PHOTO BY BRENDA MATHIES

During the upcoming Birthday Bash in Campbellville on June 28 and 29, visitors will be invited to visit the beach and get their picture taken in order to raise some funds for the Children's Aid. Randy Puma (left), executive director of the Children's Aid Foundation of Halton, and Tina Blatchford (right), public relations/volunteer coordinator of the Children's Aid Society of Halton, recently took some time to play in the waves and stand in the sand all in the name of charity.

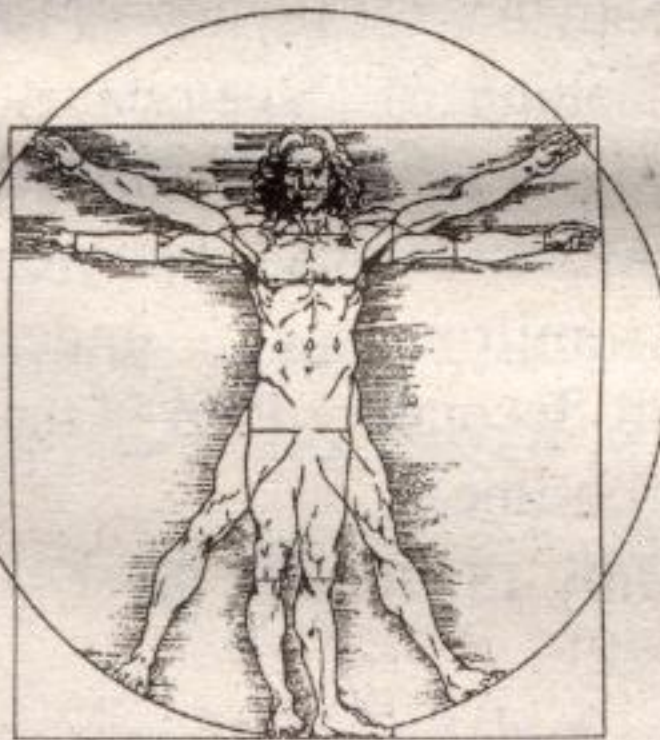
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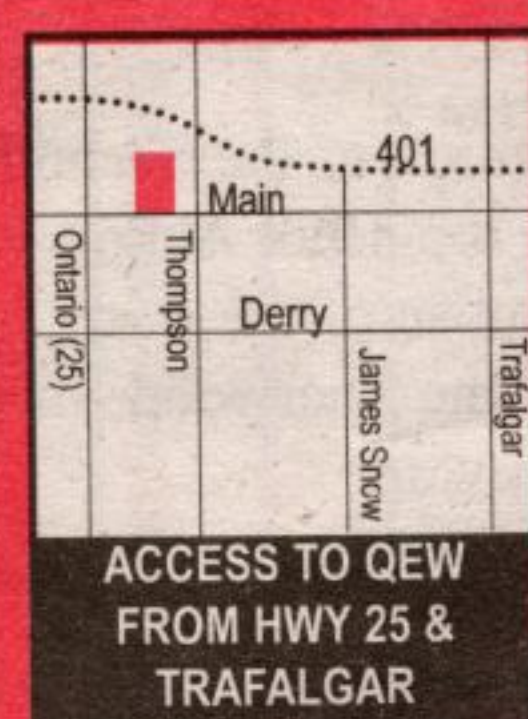
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