

NATURE'S FIRE
 Sat. Oct. 18
 Groovy Party
 with free
 loot bag!
 Space is limited
 - register in the store!
 223 Main Street
 Downtown Milton
 (905) 878-0084
 www.NaturesFire.com

~ SURVEYING THE REGION ~

Acton **Alexanian**

The North Halton Compass

100% wool
 area rugs
 up to
70% OFF
 while quantities last
 130 Mill St. E., Acton
 519-853-4577

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 8

OCTOBER 03, 2003

Development pressures Silver Creek

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

According to the recently-released Silver Creek Subwatershed Study, there are early warning signs of instability in the Georgetown area, particularly a modestly impaired water quality and an unstable stream channel. Yet the report is also optimistic, stating that "the subwatershed has some resiliency, and with clear goals and objectives, the system can be maintained and restored."

The Silver Creek Subwatershed covers most of Georgetown and areas of Halton Hills above the Niagara Escarpment northwest of town. Acton is outside of this subwatershed. Hazel Breton, Manager, Water Resources for Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), presented some of the study's findings to Halton Hills Council on September 8. After hearing of the complex nature of groundwater replenishment and how development can affect the entire system, Councillor Moya Johnson expressed dismay that this information hadn't been available earlier. "It's way too late," she said. "Developers are lined up to develop all along the creek."

The study notes that all residents, including those on municipal services, rely on groundwater as the sole source of drinking water. Water supplies and water quality can be adversely affected by urbanization, aggregate extraction, municipal wells and irrigation.

Current conditions were observed in the study. During August to September when creek water is low, effluent from the Georgetown sewage treatment plant makes up more than 70 per cent of the baseflow. A second observation is that there is already significant gully erosion in Georgetown, which has the potential for property damage. Third, while almost all of the tributaries within Georgetown show signs of instability, the most disturbed site is downstream of Wildwood Road, which is one of the more upscale addresses in Halton Hills.

Pointing out that one goal of subwatershed planning is to identify the risk of damage from development, the report recommends that the municipality use subwatershed planning and best management practices as a way of demon-

strating due diligence and providing a successful defence in court.

The report clearly outlines possible risks if stream channels are changed or degraded: property loss, increases in floods, loss of fish habitat, reduced water quality and increases in municipal costs to protect the community and landowners. "Thus, with a proposed land use alteration," the report continues, "minimizing change in volume and timing of water entering the creek, as well as the supply of sediment, is important."

The study calls for more monitoring, especially in key locations where development is expected to make impacts. "Data on changes in water can then be used to modify the existing and future developments to minimize effects," the report states.

Public education is also called for to reduce the runoff of concentrated contaminants. The report lists controlling pet litter, reducing lawn and garden chemicals, preventing spills, managing hazardous waste and maintaining septic

continued on page 19



PHOTO BY BRENDA MATHIES

Have you herd?

The award for the best pair of Halton 4-H Dairy Projects, sponsored by the CIBC (Milton), is an accomplishment of which to be proud. This achievement is awarded to the member who, when showing their current and past year's 4-H project animals together, is deemed to have the overall top pair. Kaitlin DeVore (pictured left) won this honor at the Milton Fall Fair with her pair of Rock Ella Jerseys. Kaitlin's sister Samantha (right) assisted her in the handling of these magnificent animals.

Inside this month's Compass

HOMEWORKS

At 57 Victoria Street in Milton, owners Max Giancola and Vince Piscopo were amazed to find not just one, but two time capsules at their stately brick house. This photo of Beth and Ruth Gorham found inside a mason jar was taken circa 1910.

page 11

BUSINESS FEATURE

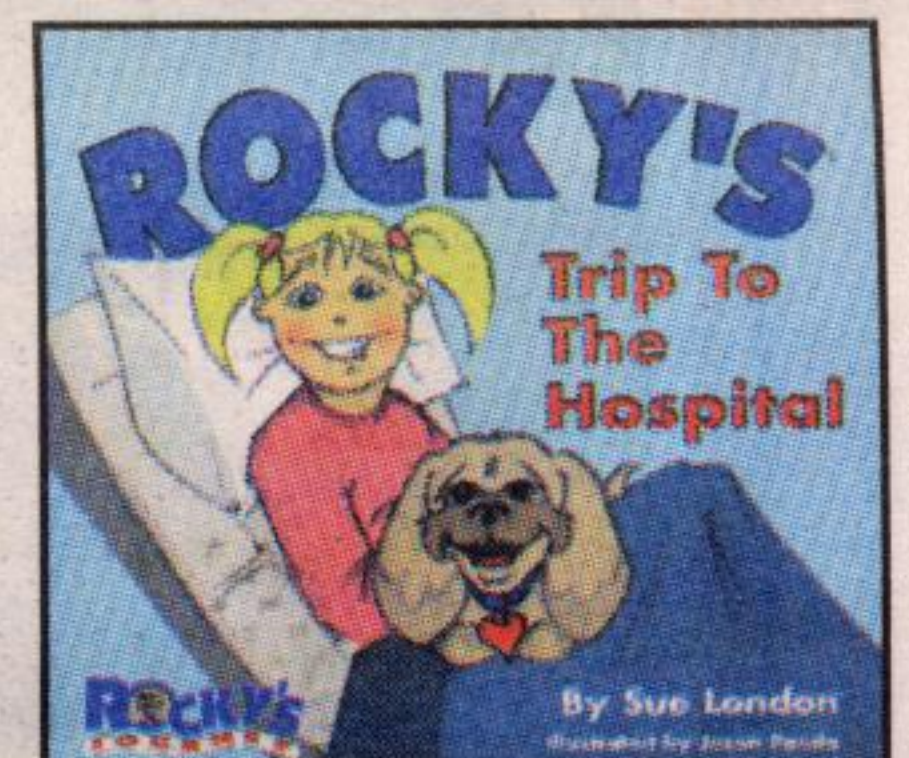
To celebrate their 25th anniversary, Rockwood TV will be holding an entertaining evening at the Rockmosa Community Centre on Thursday, October 16 to introduce a vision of the future.

page 12

IDLE PURSUITS

When the fateful news came to Sue London that she had Crohn's Disease, she soon found out firsthand how much healing power there is in the love of a devoted animal. Her dog, Rocky's, fine work was turned into a children's tale.

page 14



MILTOWNE COLLISION INC.
 "We meet by accident"
 ~Free Estimates~
 We specialize in IMPORTS
 751 Main Street East,
 Milton
 905-878-6919
LIFETIME WARRANTY

SEMI-DETACHED
 • Very large lot 32'x152'
 • 3 BDRM • eat-in • LVG
 • kitchen • lg recroom • 2
 baths • alot of upgrades
 \$227,900

TOWNHOUSE
 • very desirable area backs
 onto greenspace • 4 bed-
 room • finished family room
 • large deck w/sliding
 doors • walking distance to
 most amenities
 \$169,900

BUNGALOW ON SPACIOUS LOT
 • great view of Niagara Esc.
 • 3 bedroom • eat-in kitchen
 • large living room
 \$239,000

Jack McCrudden Free Property Evaluations!
 Associate Broker
 Tel: 905-878-7777
 Fax: 905-878-7029
 Blue Springs Realty (Halton) Corp.
 22 Ontario Street South, Milton

Classic Coolers
 Spring & Distilled Water Cooler
 Rental Sales & Service
 We are proud to bottle natural spring water from one of Ontario's remaining untouched resources. Our water is not chemically treated, it's just good, clean-tasting natural water. Enjoy!
 We deliver throughout Halton \$7.50/bottle (\$10 deposit) or pick up at one of our many outlets at \$4.99.
 Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-12
 Crystal Mountain Water Coolers Corporation
 723 Main St. E., Milton 905-876-1991
 email classic.coolers@bellnet.ca
 for people who deserve the best!

storage solutions
 9144 Twiss Road, Campbellville, Ontario. L0P 1B0
 Phone 905-854-1008 Fax 905-854-2707
 Rates as low as \$75/month, video surveillance, fully fenced facility, electronic card access, 24 hour access, only you have the key, computerized gate system, security lighting, and ground level units!