

NATURE'S FIRE
Quality Educational Toys, Games and Activities

Season's Greetings
from the staff at
Nature's Fire

223 Main Street East
Downtown Milton
(905) 878-0084
www.NaturesFire.com

~ SURVEYING THE REGION ~

The North Halton Compass

Acton Alexanian

100% wool
area rugs
up to
70% OFF
while quantities last

130 Mill St. E., Acton
519-853-4577

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 5, 2003

Guelph's big gulp

BY DONNA DANIELLI

The City of Guelph recently held public meetings in Puslinch, Brookville and Rockwood to garner input into its proposal to increase the water taking at the Arkell Springs Grounds.

The proposal calls for an additional two wells to be built alongside the three existing deep bedrock wells. This would increase the water taking at this site from 13.6 cubic meters (approximately 13,600 litres) per minute to 20 cubic metres (20,000 litres) per minute and increase the catchment area for the well site 15 per cent into neighbouring municipalities.

Guelph is currently experiencing a reduced water supply capacity as a result of water aquifer degradation, dry weather conditions and changing regulations in the wake of the Walkerton water tragedy. Under the proposal, water taking would be measured as a whole, rather than by individual well, allowing a well to be taken off line and repaired without affecting the total amount of water taken.

"It's obvious that there's a lot of concern about Guelph's proposal," Milton's Ward 1 and 3

Regional Councillor Barry Lee said of the public meetings that drew large crowds at all three information meetings.

New Guelph-Eramosa Mayor Clint Martin is calling on Puslinch Mayor Brad Whittcombe, Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline to join forces and share resources wherever possible to ensure that the concerns of the residents of the municipalities around Guelph are answered. "I'm very worried about this proposal," said Mr. Martin. "Wells are going to run dry, I don't think there's any doubt about that. And people won't be able to afford to drill new wells for the convenience of the City of Guelph."

The possibility of wells running dry was foremost amongst a list of concerns from residents that also included future needs for water and effects of the proposal on land use possibilities in the catchment area. Frustration was also expressed when rural Milton resident Garth Twitchell inquired about how long this proposal would last in solving Guelph's current water woes. Peter Busatto, City of Guelph

Waterworks Manager admitted that it is at best a ten-year solution.

"Right now we're trying to replace what we've lost," explained David Belanger, Water Supply Program Manager for the City of Guelph. "Our focus is on solving the short term crisis."

A resident of Eden Mills then commented on the large number of houses he sees being built every time he drives into Guelph. "Why are houses being built when you don't have water?" he questioned. "Isn't that putting the cart before the horse?" It is Guelph's position, as explained by Mr. Belanger, that "those new customers are not putting extra pressure on the wells. There's enough supply to ensure the new growth to the city."

While the City of Guelph is promising that there will be no "significant" well interference under the proposal, many residents were clearly skeptical. Should significant well interference occur, Guelph pledges to implement their standard operating procedures for resolution of complaints that will include contacting the Ministry of

continued on page 21



PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

Choir champs

Congratulations to Milton's Holy Rosary School on their third place win at the Children's Choir Festival in November against competitors from Brookville, Brampton and Mississauga. Shown here are Nicole Larush, Myscha Burton - Ogrodnik and Choir Director Colleen Preisner.

Inside The Compass

HOMEWORKS

The Milton United Way Christmas House Tour gave interested viewers a chance to savour the highlights of the holidays in six area homes, each specially designed by local decorators.

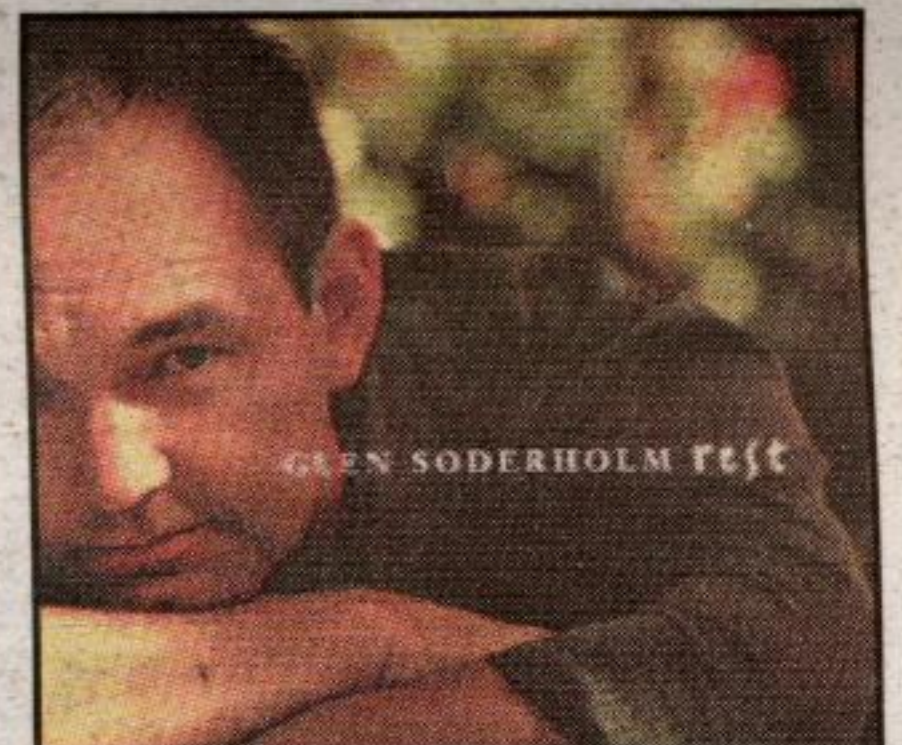
page 11



IDLE PURSUITS

What would the holidays be without music or a selection of reading material to enjoy as you relax treeside? Savour the musical compilations of two local artists or several new books by area authors.

pages 16 & 17



COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE

The Bruce Trail remains the passion of Maureen Smith, who explains, "I want to make sure the Bruce Trail and the Escarpment survive for the enjoyment of my children, grandchildren and their children, and for the people of Ontario."

page 23



MILTOWNE COLLISION INC.

"We meet by accident"

Merry Christmas!

~Free Estimates~
We specialize in IMPORTS

751 Main Street East,
Milton
905-878-6919

The Perfect Gift
For Christmas

.50cts tw. \$899.00
1.0cts tw. \$1,598.00
.50cts tw. \$749.00

Brancier
JEWELLER - GEMOLOGIST INC.

Serving your family since 1930

Milton Mall 905-876-4367

Season's Greetings
from **Classic Coolers**

Spring & Distilled Bottled 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!

Hours:
Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-12
We deliver throughout Halton

723 Main St. E., Milton 905-876-1991
Fax 905-876-4846 email classic.coolers@stn.net

Crystal Mountain Water Cooler Corporation

Harris **PRO**
OFFICE

182 Main St E Milton ON L9T 1N8
Tel 905-878-6962 Fax 905-878-3783
mail@harrisweb.ca

Serving Milton Since 1953
www.harrisweb.ca