

Raising the Bar for Halton education

By ANN KORNUKA

Education in Ontario has come a long way since the mid nineties when funding for educational programs decreased by more than \$20 million dollars in the Halton area. This dramatic change over the years has resulted in fewer resources, fewer programs, and impacts on many educational activities like music, drama and the arts. The Halton Learning Foundation was formed in 1997 when board administration members and trustees decided to take action with pending budget cuts on many educational programs. Since then, many valued programs like Physical Education, the Arts and Enrichment courses have benefited from the fundraising efforts of the Halton Learning Foundation.

A widely accepted report on education funding in Canada is The Promise of a Future report, conceived in 2002 by the Equality Task Force and led by Dr. Mordechai Rozanski. It states that since 1992 the dollar expenditure on education in Ontario has declined almost \$20 million dollars. With schools and communities growing these numbers staggeringly increase with the higher demands of rapidly growing technology and interests in the work force. Local school boards today receive a directed stream of funds for specific areas and programs; targeting the basics first and then fueling other programs with whatever funds are left. This doesn't leave much for Art and Music since this funding formula doesn't recognize the higher cost and value of these programs.

The goal of the Halton Learning Foundation is that 100% of every dollar donated and raised will be directly distributed into cash strapped programs.

On September 2nd the second annual Driving for Excellence golf tournament will take place at Crosswinds Club House and Golf Course. Players will include the Toronto Rock Lacrosse Team members, and ex Tiger Cat players Tony Gabriel and Willy Bethea. There will also be dinner and a silent auction. All profits will go towards supporting programs and students of the Halton District School Board. Tee off time is at 1:30 and dinner takes place at 7pm. Cost for the Golf Tourney are \$250 a ticket and spots are filling up fast. A \$100 charitable donation receipt will be issued to all who purchase tickets. For those that only want to attend the dinner and auction, tickets are only \$50.

For tickets and information: 905-333-3499 Ext. 134, Email lancasterj@thecentre.on.ca

Along with the Golf Tournament the Inaugural Charity Dinner will take place September 8th featuring the renowned artist and former teacher Robert Bateman along with musical performances by Rick Emmett of Triumph fame. Other musical and guest performers include the Halton Junior Jazz Band and the Maple Grove Drummers. These events will launch a \$1 Million campaign to support the Arts in the Halton District School Board. For Tickets and information: 905-333-3499 Ext. 134 Email lancasterj@thecentre.on.ca

"For every dollar we invest in the development of children, society saves seven dollars in treatment, support and intervention in later years. One of the most profound ways of investing in the development of our society's children is through public education." - Dr. Fraser Mustard

Speeders beware



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

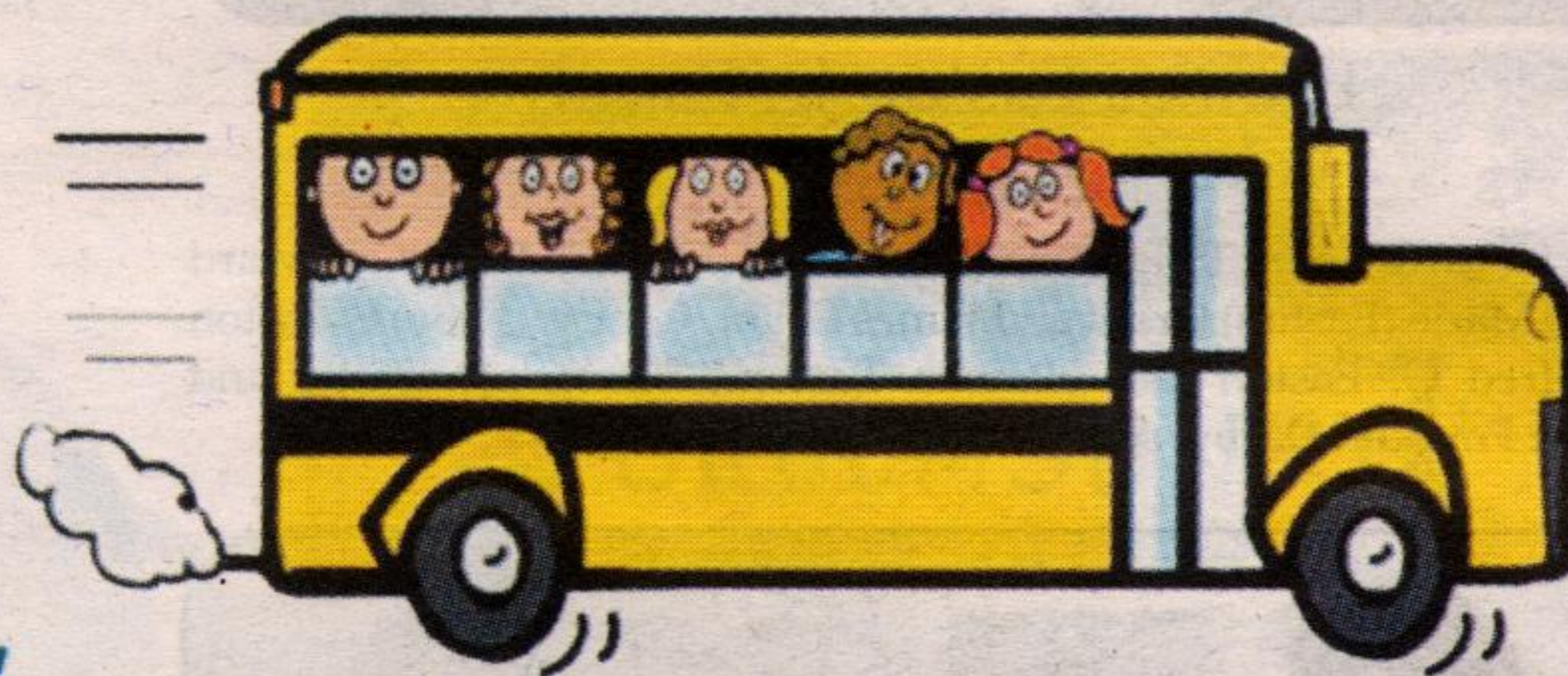
Halton Region, working together with the Halton Regional Police Service, launched an anti-speeding campaign known as Drive SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) on August 19. The campaign is intended to help lower the number of speeding drivers on Halton roads. Every year Halton police issue approximately 15,000 speeding tickets. Here Regional staff and Halton police attend an unveiling of one of 13 anti-speeding signs erected as part of the campaign. Staff Sergeant Andrew Fletcher (left) is joined by Acting Deputy Chief Mike Kingston (second from left), Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline, and Halton's Commissioner of Planning and Public Works Peter Crockett (right).



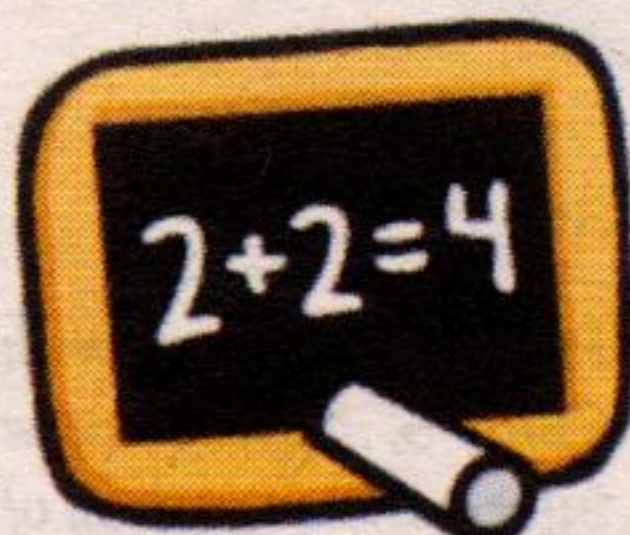
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