

## Committee prevents pollution

### The dirt on earth movement in Halton Hills

By DAVE DEVENY

**B**ryan Lewis, local Town Councillor and Site Alteration Committee Chairperson, has a message for Halton Hills Residents: Rules and regulations are there to protect all of us. He should know a little about rules. The former NHL Director of Officiating relates the history of this particular issue. Lewis says: "It started 3 or 4 years ago when developers from Mississauga, Brampton and Milton began developing the Halton Hills area. They started trucking in thousands of loads of dirt into the area. How would you like it if there were literally thousands of loads of dirt being driven by your house every day? It was damaging the roads and there was no peace and quiet."

#### THE RULES ARE THERE TO PROTECT ALL OF US

Councillor Lewis also pointed out that there was no way to determine if the soil was polluted or what kind of condition it was in. Developers typically remove the topsoil from a building site, pile it up, and then restore the soil when the construction is completed. In other cases, a farmer may want to fill in an area of the land for easier farming. Unfortunately, soil that was being trucked in may not have been of the same quality as the soil in the area. Lewis contends that soil being brought to the area may not have been up to the standard that is generally found in Halton Hills. The soil could have been clay from digging holes for basements, could have been mixed with cement and gravel or it could have also been polluted in some way. There was no way of knowing and there was no law or procedure for bringing soil in from other areas. Enter the Site Alteration Committee.

The Site Alteration Committee is made up of three councillors: Lewis, Robson and Somerville, three citizens, a hauler, a member of the HFRA and a city staff member Patricia Watts. The Committee's next meeting will be on August 31, 2004 at the Halton Hills Civic Center. They have put in place laws regarding the use of soil from other areas. These procedures include the testing and tracking of soil brought into the area. "You would think that you can do what you want to do with your property, but that is not the case," Lewis says. "Soil and fill from other areas can have a dramatic effect on the local environment, like changing the local water table. The Site Alteration Committee is there to make sure that no one can build or operate an inappropriate business on land next to yours. The rules and regulations are there to protect all of us." Another example Lewis offered was someone buying the 50 acres next to your farm and then deciding to open a wrecking yard or a dump. The Site Alteration Committee will have some jurisdiction as to what type of activity would be allowed at that location.

In his evaluation of the situation Councillor Lewis says that the farmers in the area will tell you: "There is no better soil than what's already here." He wants to get the word out that people should check with the Halton Hills Site Alteration Committee before trucking soil in from other areas. The Committee works with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton and the Grand River Conservation Authority to ensure that there will be no adverse effects on the environment. The two-minute phone call may keep us all out of the environmental penalty box. Tweet!

## Ask a teacher... virtually guaranteed to help

By DONNA DANIELLI

**A** new academic year is just days away, bringing with it a renewed opportunities for scholastic success. But what about the students who struggle, those who are embarrassed to ask for the extra help that they require? TV Ontario recently launched a new initiative, sponsored by RBC Financial Group, aimed at helping secondary students achieve their best. *Ask a Teacher* is an interactive portion of the Independent Learning Centre's website at [www.ilc.org](http://www.ilc.org).

*Ask a Teacher* offers live, one on one connections with certified Ontario teachers five days a week, Sunday to Thursday, from 5:30 p.m.

to 9:30 p.m.. This free service connects students with teachers in a virtual classroom, with real answers in real time. Teachers and students communicate using text and a virtual whiteboard for one on one tutoring.

Parents often don't have the time, knowledge or money to provide their children with the extra help or tutoring required. *Ask a Teacher* has more than 1,000 exercises and links to help students practice for EQAO exams, work on grade and subject specific exercises and learn how to write essays, study and research on line. And best of all, it's free!

# WELCOME HOME CANADIAN OLYMPIANS

**Oakville "welcomes home" its Olympians and congratulates them on their success at the 28<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.**

Congratulations to Oakville natives Adam van Koevorden, Oskar Johansson and Andrew Hurd on their Olympic success.

Adam van Koevorden brought home Olympic Gold in the K-1 500 metre kayak finals and a Bronze medal in the K-1 1000 metre kayak finals.

"As Canadians, we share a tremendous pride when one of our athletes wins a medal at the Olympics," said Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale. "However, when this athlete is from Oakville it is a momentous occasion and cause for celebration."

Oskar Johansson and his sailing teammate John Curtis of Kingston, finished a respective 15th overall in the Tornado class after placing 13th in their final race.

Andrew Hurd and teammates Brent Hayden of Vancouver, Brian Johns of Richmond, B.C., and Rick Say of Victoria finished fifth in the finals of the men's 4x200-metre freestyle relay with a time of 7:13.33, a Canadian record.

"The talent, determination and spirit of each of these athletes is admired. We will all proudly remember the closing ceremony with Adam carrying the Canadian flag as the team enter the stadium," said Mulvale.

Mayor Ann Mulvale, Members of Council and residents of Oakville look forward to personally congratulating Oakville's Olympians on their return home.

The Town is currently planning a hometown celebration for its Olympian athletes.

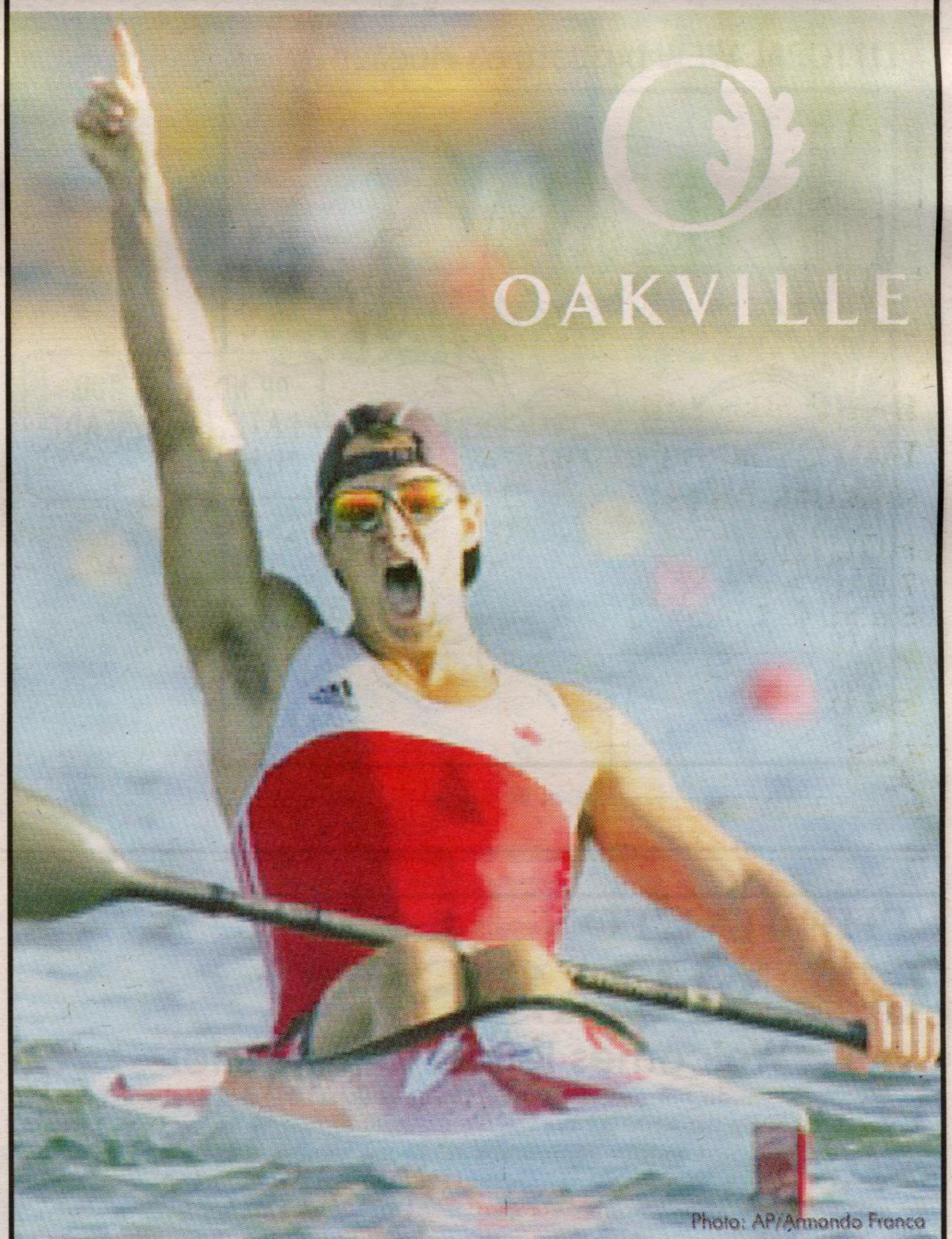


Photo: AP/Armando Franco