

regional connections & compass classifieds

For Regional Connections: 905-854-3333 Fax: 905-854-4761 • For Classifieds: 905-873-2925 Fax: 905-873-1528

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm or Email: production@haltoncompass.com

CLASSIFIEDS are \$15 minimum + GST. Ads must be paid in advance by VISA. Deadline is Tuesday at noon.

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Alice Smith

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH Association in Acton is looking for Volunteer Drivers to provide clients transportation to and from social recreational activities in the Acton and Milton areas. Drivers are used both for regular activities (generally daytime) and for special events. For more information, please call 519-853-9793. (TFN)

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE MUSEUMS OF BURLINGTON could use your help as a Museum Tour Guide or Education Program Assistant. Training is provided. For more information on this and other interesting volunteer opportunities, contact the Volunteer Program Administrator, (905) 332-9888. (TFN)

Flamborough Farm Supply Ltd.

Flamborough Farm Supply Ltd. is a family owned business seeking an individual to market our product lines of seed, pesticides and fertilizer. The individual shall have a post secondary education in agriculture with successful completion of the Certified Crop Advisor designation. Expanding customer relations and seeking potential customers are part of this position. An AZ-DZ licence would be an asset.

Please reply in confidence to William Nimijohn or Grant Speed by fax at 905-659-0904

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For whom the whistle blows

By ANN KORNUA

Off in the distance a train cuts across the Halton landscape through brush and trees carrying behind it thousands of tonnes of goods bound for the marketplace. The conductor sticks his head out the side of the window and feels the warm spring air rush through his hair. Coming up to his left is a schoolyard where several kids stand on a mound, close enough to see the steel wheels spin but far back enough so they aren't in harms way. One child raises his arm and waves to the conductor. The conductor smiles and reaches for the whistle cord and yanks down. Fweeeeeet! Here comes the train! Everyone look!

Picturesque, isn't it?

Railway tracks are not an uncommon sight in Halton. You may drive

over the same tracks every day without ever seeing a train and the railway warning sign can become a part of the scenery. Most train related accidents happen when motorists disobey traffic signals, fail to yield right of way at uncontrolled crossings or drive when impaired. A recent decision to stop train whistles at three of Milton's rail crossings has given many residents in the area cause to celebrate. Now there will be peace and quiet in the Milton countryside.

"Direction is now being provided from CP to terminate whistles at these crossings" Phil Antoniow, project coordinator in the engineering service

department explains. "We received a petition two and half years ago from the new urban area. It has taken to this point for this termination."

The work involved behind the anti-whistle campaign was to proceed with preparations and safety precautions and to retain an engineering company to undertake the investigation. The engineers looked at vehicle sight lines and driver safety as well as the technical aspects of gate timing. The accident histories of all three crossings were examined. To improve safety the surfaces of the intersections were upgraded to a high quality rail crossing material. Phil

Antoniow adds, "If you have gates there is a strong possibility that whistles will not be needed."

Most train-motor vehicle collisions happen in the daytime and when the train is travelling less than 80 km/h. Some drivers believe that they can "beat the train" but the average freight train, which weighs between sixteen thousand and twenty thousand tonnes, when travelling at 120 km/h requires more than 1.5 kilometres to stop. An eight-car passenger train travelling at 59 km/h requires about one kilometre to stop. Even if the locomotive engineer sees you and applies the emergency brakes, the distance required to stop is the equivalent of almost fourteen football fields. And even if you race to a tie, you lose.

"IF YOU HAVE GATES THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT WHISTLES WILL NOT BE NEEDED"