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THE HALTON COMPASS

REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

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School's in

Mayor wants college for Halton Hills

By BERNADETTE WARD

It's not yet a done deal, but Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette is hoping that his vision of higher learning for Halton residents in the form of a community college campus will become a reality by 2007.

The Mayor, along with Regional Councillor Jane Fogal and Acton Councillor Michael O'Leary, announced the plans for a boutique campus at a press conference on March 21 at Halton Hills Town Hall in Georgetown.

"We want opportunities for our own people to get a better education," said Bonnette.

The boutique campus idea is new in Ontario and involves the provision of a stand alone building or learning centre that will house different colleges on site.

"These are ground breaking things that have never been done before," said O'Leary.

"WE WANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR OWN PEOPLE TO GET A BETTER EDUCATION,"

Billed along the lines of the controversial public private partnerships or P3's, the plan involves backing from the province and the federal government as well as private industry and the community at large.

In keeping with the P3 theme, Bonnette is hopeful that lands owned by Mold-Masters Limited may be the site for the college and has indicated that Jonathon Fischer, the president of the company, has signaled his interest in participating in the venture.

"I think we all believe that education is important," said Bonnette.

Although in its infant stages, the plan is forging ahead with surprising speed and with co-operation from nearby colleges including Seneca, Humber, Conestoga and Sheridan.

"Back in December this was just an idea. I'm amazed to see this come together with

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Lack of water puts a limit on growth

Guelph's Water Supply Master Plan

By BERNADETTE WARD

Where will the water come from to quench the thirst of an emerging urban centre was the question on the minds of those in attendance at a public forum held by the City of Guelph on March 8 at the Cutten Club.

More than 100 people from various groups representing urban, rural and agricultural concerns as well as

staff from the different town departments, local councillors and residents turned out to view the city's water supply master plan.

"This is the most important policy decision that this council will make," said Cathy Downer, Councillor, Ward 5, Guelph.

The plan, dispensed by a presentation given by EarthTech and Lura Consulting, outlined the current state of the water supply and provided a framework for participants to express ideas and concerns.

According to information provided through the presentation, Guelph relies almost extensively on groundwater to supply its water needs and has done so since 1879.

The city has 23 production wells, many of which draw from the Arkell Springs aquifer, part of the Grand River Watershed, of which North Halton is also a part.

Although things have been working relatively well to-date, this may not continue to be the case and the city is looking for a new plan to take them through to 2054.

"Do not make the assumption that everything is okay today," said John Haasen from EarthTech. "There are pain points."

For instance, of the 23 production wells, 17 were in near continuous operation in 2004, with the remainder out of

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PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA
 Icicles melting away in the Spring sunshine off Charles Street in Milton.

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