

## Vandals destroy Oakville playground

Oakville Parks and Open Space staff were dismayed to discover that vandals had done over \$100,000 damage to playground equipment at Pine Glen Park over the weekend.

"A fire was set overnight Saturday and destroyed the larger of two sets of playground equipment at Pine Glen Park," said Chris Mark, the Town's Director of Parks and Open Space. "As a result of the fire, the playground equipment is unsafe for use and will have to be removed."

Mark indicated that the vandalized equipment would be fenced off until the police and the insurance company complete their investigation and arrangements can be made for its removal.

"The junior playground set and splash pad remain open for use," said Mark, "but it will likely be two or three months before a new senior playground structure can be installed."

This is the most serious incident of park vandalism that Mark has witnessed during his tenure at the Town.

**"SMALLER ACTS OF VANDALISM... COST US TEN TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR TO CLEAN UP"**

"Smaller acts of vandalism in Town parks cost us ten to fifteen thousand dollars a year to clean up," said Mark, "but this

is the first time that an entire playground structure will have to be replaced."

The Halton Regional Police Service is actively investigating the fire and Town staff asks that anyone with information about the fire contact the Halton Regional Police Service.

## Region moves ahead with forestry management plan

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plants in the forest, with three of those being provincially rare. There are also a number of area-sensitive breeding birds and a threatened amphibious species - the Jefferson salamander that make their home in the forest.

There were concerns from Ward 4 Regional and Town Councillor, Allan Elgar who questioned why the region was taking on work that could be done by Conservation Halton, whom he felt already has the infrastructure in place.

Jane Clohecy, director of planning and transportation services, pointed out that Conservation Halton doesn't have a forest management plan and so there is no overlap.

She also noted that it makes sense for the Region to manage the forests given the regional tree by-law.

"It was of benefit to look in the direction of hiring staff," said Clohecy.

A delegation from the Public Liaison Committee spoke about the need for new and future uses of the forest to be considered.

"Whether the committee appreciates it or not, Halton Region forests are the destination for many people," said Michael Badyk who represented the mountain biking contingent from the PLC.

"I don't feel I can support all aspects of the plan," he said.

Badyk's comments in part centred on what he considered to be a lack of concern for recreational uses of the forest, an issue that was also raised by Councillor Mike Denison who wanted to know why snowmobiling was not to be an approved use of the trails.

"We're looking at a more passive use," responded Paul Attack from the Region. "There would be some impact on wildlife and the environment due to noise."

According to Ho Wong, manager of long range planning for the Region, staff have endorsed the plan and made a number of recommendations.

The first is to establish a stewardship advisory committee that would advise staff and Council on forest management and help provide a more detailed implementation plan.

The next recommendation involved the five-year operating budget that would include the hiring of a regional forester and work on a number of 'catch up' projects such as fencing, gates, signs and parking.

Also noted was the establishment of a by-law on prohibited uses including snowmobiles, wild food harvesting and the removal of flora and fauna and the last recommendation was for co-ordination with Conservation Halton.

For more information about the Forestry Management Plan, try the Region's website at [www.region.halton.on.ca](http://www.region.halton.on.ca).

## Wolf attack in Nassagaweya

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the Algonquin Park.

"South from there, its coyotes," he says. "Certainly down here, we're dealing with coyotes."

From the coyote's perspective, Pisapio says that certainly a small dog might be considered a food source, but with larger dogs, the scenario that Bagnall describes when Rolf took off to the drive shed following its instincts, is common.

"They want nothing to do with a medium size dog or larger, they're just trying to defend themselves," said Pisapio who also advises that the incidence of rabies in coyotes is exceedingly low.

The attack has left Bagnall shaken and her dog wounded. She no longer lets the dogs off leash, even in her own backyard.

"It's clearly not safe, even in our own backyard," she said.

According to Ray Bartlett, a municipal by-

law enforcement officer with Town of Milton, Bagnall does have some recourse as residents have the legal authority to dispatch nuisance animals or ones that are threatening livestock or property although there are of course some rules.

"We get calls from time to time from farmers who want to protect themselves," said Bartlett.



Diane Bagnall with her dogs at the spot where the attack happened



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## Rural Halton residents - You can make a difference:

Do you have a concern about your neighbourhood? Are you interested in helping police officers and other community partners that work in your neighbourhood to improve the community? Consider attending an upcoming meeting of your local Community Policing or Consultation Committee. The committees work together with the Police Service to creatively identify and solve issues relating to safety and quality of life.

Milton (core area)	May 17 at 7:30 pm	12 Division, 490 Childs Drive, Milton
Derry	June 29 at 7:00 pm	12 Division, 490 Childs Drive, Milton
Nassagaweya	May 16 at 10:00 am	Brookville Hall, 11264 Guelph Line
Halton Hills Rural	May 31 at 7:00 pm	11 Division, 217 Guelph Street, Georgetown
Acton	June 2 at 7:30 pm	10 Division, 38 Mill Street East, Acton

These public meetings are open to everyone. No need to RSVP. For more information, log on to [www.hrps.on.ca](http://www.hrps.on.ca), and click on the *Community Policing* folder.

**Halton Regional Police Service**  
**"Progress through Participation"**