

Our future is in good hands

Chairman's breakfast on the environment

By DONNA DANIELLI

There were over 100 students representing 21 different Halton schools taking part in the recent Bell Chairman's Breakfast on the Environment recently. This second annual event saw many of the students and schools honoured for their commitment to the environment, with four students, Amber Bryer, Paul Nogas, Katie German and Matthew Fernandez also receiving Halton Environmental Scholarship Awards.

"Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders," declared Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline, who acknowledged the importance of the students seated at tables with corporate sponsors, encouraging them to "talk together about the legacy they are leaving behind." She also thanked the many parents and teachers in the audience "for realizing the importance of nurturing these kids," adding that "I think our future is in good hands here." The highlight of the morning though came from the insightful and humorous keynote speaker, Yvonne Camus. Ms. Camus is the single female member of the only rookie team ever to complete the World Championship of Adventure Racing - Eco Challenge. "To give you an idea of how tough it is," said Ms. Camus of the gruelling 9 day and 22 hour race that spanned 500 kilometres, "for ten years, the Navy Seals have entered every year and never finished."

Ms. Camus was riveting as she described her experiences in Malaysia, complete with behind the scenes photos and video footage. She told tales of swarms of fire ants, 40 degree Celsius days with 95 per cent humidity, and beetles the size of her hand as she and her team competed through a jungle trek, ocean paddle, mountain biking and 600 foot rappel during the race. "The jungle was this harsh environment that we had no experience with, but we saw things in that jungle that were absolutely glorious," she explained. The audience roared with laughter as she described her encounter with the native animals of the jungle. "The orangutans threw things, spat and hissed at the male members of my team, but when I entered the jungle they hooted and hollered," she laughed. "I have seen living proof that men have not evolved."

The importance of environmental awareness was clear as Ms. Camus outlined the rules of Eco-Challenge which require that athletes use only human power and leave no trace behind them as they race. But it was her life lessons that carried the most impact with those listening, the need to solve problems quickly, to always try your hardest when you least feel like it and to find new ways to overcome obstacles. Hers was

the first team to ever use a parasail during the ocean trek, saving themselves hours of backbreaking work. As well, knowing that she wasn't as strong a mountain biker as her three male team-mates, they rigged a system with bungee cords that tethered her bike to theirs, allowing her to match their speed as they raced. "Just by thinking differently, we were able to propel ourselves forward." She talked about what it is like for athletes to "be in the zone" and how to apply that concept to all aspects of life. "You get glimpses of brilliance and you get inspired by those glimpses," she explained. "Think about what you are doing when it works. If you recreate those moments when it works, you're going to see more of those moments of brilliance."

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Equally important was her message to remember to cheer others on and to accept their cheers on your behalf. "Words of encouragement are valuable, never walk by a situation that you can improve with your words of encouragement," she urged the audience. "Encouraging messages help you understand that others believe in you, even when you don't believe in yourself and that's why words are valuable, having the right people around you lends you knowledge, strength and enthusiasm that will contribute to your success."



PHOTO BY STEPHEN BAKER

Seen here with Regional Chair, Joyce Savoline is Yvonne Camus, the guest speaker at the Bell Chairman's Breakfast on the Environment, held at Rattlesnake Point Golf and Country Club.



PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

On hand at the Chairman's Breakfast on the Environment were Scholarship winners (left to right) Paul Nogas, Katie German, Amber Bryer and Matthew Fernandez, who are shown here with Chairman Joyce Savoline.

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The purpose of the *Weed Control Act* R.S.O. 1990 is to reduce the impact of noxious weeds on the industries of agriculture and horticulture. This act applies to agricultural and horticultural lands that generate income or other benefits to agriculture. *This excludes lawns, gardens and private areas for personal enjoyment and leisure.*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that unless noxious weeds are destroyed by **June 6, 2005** and as often as is necessary throughout the season to prevent the ripening of their seeds and the dispersal of their pollens, the Town of Halton Hills may enter onto private property and destroy these weeds. The costs will be charged against the property owner and collected in the manner of municipal taxes.

IN URBAN AREAS the *Weed Control Act* does not apply to noxious weeds or weed seeds that are far enough away from any land used for agricultural or horticultural purposes, as they do not interfere with that use. The following are designated as noxious weeds in the Town of Halton Hills:

Barberry, common	Knapweed	Spurge, leafy
Buckthorn, European	Milkweed	Thistle, bull
Carrot, wild	Poison-ivy	Thistle, Canada
Colt's-foot	Proso millet, black-seeded	Thistle, nodding
Dodder	Ragweed	Thistle, Russian
Goat's-beard	Rocket, yellow	Thistle, Scotch
Hemlock, poison	Sow-thistle, annual, perennial	Vetchling, tuberous
Johnson grass	Spurge, Cypress	

Complaints regarding dandelion and golden rod will not be accepted, as these are not considered noxious weeds, pursuant to the *Weed Control Act*. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted. Complaints should be directed to:

Cathy Sinclair
Weed Inspector
(905)873-2601, ext. 7714
cathys@haltonhills.ca

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