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Summer races to begin at Mohawk Racetrack

By BERNADETE WARD

Starting June 20, the race is on for fans of harness racing with Mohawk Racetrack holding summer races for the first time in its 43-year history following a \$6 million facelift.

"It's quite exciting for us, we've always wanted to be able to offer racing in the summer at Mohawk," said Bruce Murray, manager of corporate and media communications, for the Standard Bred division.

Mohawk will be offering major stakes races such as the Breeders Crown, the \$1 million Canadian Trotting Classic, the \$850,000 Canadian Pacing Derby, the \$850,000 Maple Leaf Trot, the \$1.2 million Metro Pace.

The renovations to make it all more comfortable include a re-designed grandstand with a new glass line, a lounge, full food and beverage service and a barbeque area next to the track.

"It's an entirely new venture for us and as such the plant had to be given a facelift," said Murray.

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Reading for a cause

By DONNA DANIELLI

When children's book publisher Scholastic Canada challenged classes to read one hundred books in two months, it might have seemed like a daunting task to anyone other than Derek Jones' Grade Two class at Brookville School. The 26 students of the class collectively decided that they would instead read 1,000 books within the timeframe. "Reading 100 would be too easy," explains one of the students, Tommy. His classmate Shannon explained their motivation, saying that "The charity is for kids that don't have books, and if we read 100 books, Scholastic would donate 100 books to charity." The students exceeded their goal, reading a total of 1,174 books during the time limit. "They were challenged to read 40 books at their own reading level," explains teacher Derek Jones. Each student also set their own individual goals, with one child reading a total of 101 books, while another challenged himself to read only chapter books. The Halton Compass would like to congratulate Mr. Jones' Grade Two class on their outstanding achievement.

Joint Board approves extension to Dufferin Aggregates' Milton Quarry

A Joint Board composed of two hearing officers from the Ontario Municipal Board and the Environmental Review Tribunal, has approved an 83-hectare extension to Dufferin Aggregates' Milton Quarry. "We are delighted with this decision, which gives us another 12 years of operation at Milton," said Bill Galloway, General Manager for Dufferin Aggregates. "The project is very important to our company as a whole, our customers and the 100 employees who work at the quarry".

This decision follows a 72-day public hearing period spread over 10 months which ended in November 2004 with over 270 exhibits filed by the various parties. The Joint Board report acknowledges the agencies support for

Dufferin's applications and Dufferin's agreement to transfer 400 hectares (1000 acres) of its lands to public ownership.

"These lands will provide a significant asset for public recreation as well as improved water management on 16 Mile Creek" said Bill Galloway. "Dufferin has entered into agreements with Conservation Halton and Halton Region. The Water Management System Agreement with Conservation Halton requires Dufferin to provide funding for the long-term operation of the system and transfer ownership of the lakes, reservoirs and adjacent lands to Conservation Halton once the lakes are filled".

The proposal is designed to protect the wetlands and creek around the site using a

system of groundwater recharge, like the one that Dufferin has been approved for use in the existing North Quarry. The report recommends strict conditions that have to be met before the quarry can start extraction and ongoing controls throughout the operation.

The government's recent Greenbelt Plan does not technically apply (the application was filed in January 2001 before the Plan was designed). The Hearing was necessary because two environmental groups, CONE (Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment) and POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) and some members of the public objected to the applications.

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