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THE HALTON COMPASS



REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

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Fourth probable human case of West Nile virus

First positive crow found in Acton

A female Burlington resident in her sixties is the fourth probable case of West Nile virus (WNV) in Halton this year. The Halton Region Health Department has received initial test results from the Public Health Laboratory in Toronto. Further tests will confirm the diagnosis. This confirmation is expected in approximately two weeks. To date all probable cases have been Burlington residents with three of them living south of the QEW. Three of the four cases were hospitalized, with two of these patients now being discharged.

Dr. Bob Nosal, Medical Officer of Health for Halton Region, said "August and September are the months of highest risk for WNV infection in humans. The Health Department will continue with its aggressive WNV control pro-

gram and residents are reminded to protect themselves against mosquito bites."

West Nile virus activity in the bird and mosquito population has been detected in the last four years in Halton. Sixty Halton residents were diagnosed with WNV disease in 2002. No human cases were diagnosed in Halton in 2003 and 2004.

Approximately 80% of people with WNV infection have no symptoms. About 20% have illness characterized by fever, headache, muscle aches and rash. One per cent of those infected become seriously ill with a neurological syndrome, which can include encephalitis, paralysis and difficulty with speech.

The Halton Region Health Department reminds residents to pro-

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Milton Town Hall expansion receives lukewarm reception

By BERNADETTE WARD

Parking, appearance and loss of heritage homes were top of mind issues for the 21 Miltonians in attendance at the first open house designed to garner public input on the expansion of town hall on September 13.

"I would prefer to look at a house, rather than parking, even if it is decrepit and mouldy inside," said Bill Leeder.

That was just one of the sentiments given in response to Paul Sapounzi, architect for The Ventin Group Architects Ltd., as he took the group through the timeline for the project and expressed his vision for the future building.

The addition, which will be 40,000 square feet spread over two stories, will house the departments that handle the day-to-day aspects of town hall. Council chambers and public meeting space will remain in the current building.

"We're kind of turning over the heritage part of the building to the community," said Sapounzi.

Although the public was concerned about how the building might look, citing the example of the Milton Sports

Complex and the overall industrial look of many new buildings, Sapounzi noted that a design for the project has not yet been decided on, but that his firm is intent on creating a new aspect that has as much integrity as the old.

"This is one of the most unique heritage projects in Ontario," he noted. "The existing building is a signature building and we want the new one to be a signature building as well," he said.

Aside from design, the remaining concerns expressed most often were regarding parking, the possibility of expanding the site at 555 Industrial Drive instead and the loss of several homes whose presence would affect the footprint of the intended expansion as well as planned parking.

Sapounzi pointed out that to relocate the homes at 155 Mary Street and 167 Mary Street it would cost \$70,000 and \$30,000 respectively and another \$150,000 to move the jailor's house.

Aside from the cost, a second problem with retaining the jailor's house was integrating it into the design and then finally he advised that the brick on the

Continued on page 3



Now, where'd I put it?

PHOTO BY PETER C. MCCUSKER

It wasn't a great golfing day for Milton Mayor Gordon Krantz but his tournament at Granite Ridge raised a lot of cash for the United Way. More photos on page 9.

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