

Two bat tests positive for rabies

Two bats found recently have tested positive for rabies. One bat was found in Oakville, the other in Milton. These are Halton's second and third rabies-positive bats found this year. There was no unprotected human exposure to the bats.

The Health Department is advising all Halton residents to avoid contact with bats and to be very cautious if around them. Anyone who suspects they have come into contact with a bat should promptly report the incident to the Health Department.

Bat rabies is fatal if a person is infected and not treated before symptoms start. Symptoms can take up to one year to appear. Bats can be found in barns, caves, and occasionally in homes. Infected animals carry the virus in their saliva and pass it to other animals or people through bites and contaminated wounds. Each incident of possible exposure should be reported to the Health Department for investigation, even if you were not bitten.

The rabies virus can infect any mammal. Those most commonly infected are bats, skunks, foxes, and raccoons. There are a number of things you can do to help identify a rabid animal, help prevent the spread of rabies and protect yourself.

- Stay away from wild, stray, or aggressive animals
- Do not touch dead or sick animals
- Do not feed or touch wild animals
- Do not touch bats, skunks, raccoons or foxes or keep them as pets
- Make sure your pet is vaccinated against rabies
- Keep your pet tied on a leash
- Report all animal bites or potential bites to the Health Department
- Get immediate medical attention if you're in contact with rabid animals
- Contact animal control if you see a potentially rabid animal
- Animal-proof your house, cottage, and workplace.

For more information about rabies or if you need to report a suspected rabid animal or exposure, please call the Halton Region Health Department at 905-825-6000. Visit the website at www.region.halton.on.ca/health

Public meeting about Halton's Burloak Water Purification Plant

As part of Halton Region's commitment to public consultation, the Region is hosting its second Public Information Centre (PIC) on the Burloak Water Purification Plant (WPP). This PIC will provide Halton residents with an update on the detailed design and construction activities of the project and will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2005 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Halton Regional Centre 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville

The new Burloak WPP will be located on Rebecca Street, east of Great Lakes Boulevard in the Town of Oakville. The plant will provide safe, clean and pleasant tasting drinking water to Oakville, Burlington and Milton residents. Construction of the intake tunnel began in September 2005 and construction of the plant will begin in April 2006. Treated drinking water is expected to be available from the plant by December 2007.

Business Excellence

PHOTO BY STEVE BAKER



Halton Business Development Centre is hosting an 8-week series of seminars for senior business executives titled 'Business Excellence'. Pictured here are seminar speaker Mike Cooke and event organizer, Business Development Officer Elaine Holding. Details of the series can be found on www.Haltonbusiness.com or Elaine can be reached at 1-866-442-5866 ext 7955.

Milton's Knox Presbyterian Church reaches 150

PHOTO BY ANN KORNUA



Milton's Knox Presbyterian Church celebrated its 150 anniversary this past Saturday evening with a dinner for church members and friends. Pictured here is the Chancel Choir with piper Corporal Jim Douglas preparing for the evening's performance.



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oakville magical races



PHOTO BY PETER MCCUSKER

Oakville Magical Races fundraiser was held at Bronte Creek Provincial Park Saturday morning with children's, 5 and 8km. races, barbeque and awards. The foundation holds an annual Christmas Party for the financially disadvantaged children of the town.