



**PEP POWER:** Wearing school athletic uniforms from past decades, Acton High school students staged a pep rally last Thursday to boost school spirit. Shown are: front, left to right: Ruth Eddolls and Jeff Birrell. Second row: Jay Christopher, Ryan Gallagher and Daryn McIntyre. Third row: Andrea Adams, Jenn Shultz, Emma Douglas, Kate Locke, Sandy Chapman and Graham McClure. Back: Jillian Jahn, Rebecca Austin, Freyja Forsythe, Steph McKay, Ryan Turpin and Adam Ahearn. - Frances Niblock photo

## UAL back in court

Did a former Tory cabinet minister tell the CEO of an Acton quarry to continue operating without a necessary development permit? That's the question Acton area environmentalist Rita Landry expects to have answered following her win in the latest round of a court battle against United Aggregates Ltd., (UAL, and now Blue Circle Aggregates) for alleged illegal quarrying at its operation south of Acton.

"I won!" I knew I was right," a happy, but not surprised Landry, said following a ruling last Thursday by the Hon. Judge Jean-Marc Labrosse of the Ontario Court of Appeal. He denied UAL leave to appeal a July ruling that ordered a new trial for UAL and found a Justice of the Peace erred when she quashed a subpoena for then-environment minister Brenda Elliott's testify at UAL's 1998 trial.

At that trial, UAL CEO Bill Burkart testified Elliott told him to continue quarrying without a necessary Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) development permit, despite two court rulings to the contrary. UAL successfully argued the defence of officially induced error - the quarrying wasn't illegal because Elliott said it was okay - and the charges were dismissed.

Landry, backed by the Sierra Legal Defence Fund, ap-

pealed that decision and won, and now the highest court has denied UAL the right to seek leave to appeal that ruling. In his judgement, Judge Labrosse said UAL had "failed to raise any legal is-

sue which require in the public interest or for due administration of justice that leave be granted."

Both sides will be back in a Burlington court on October 18.



### United Way of Halton Hills INFORMATION BULLETIN

#### The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Halton/Peel District

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind is a private, voluntary, not-for-profit organization providing rehabilitation and library services to blind, visually impaired and deafblind persons across Canada. The CNIB is celebrating its 82nd Anniversary.

CNIB's service strategy has one primary goal: to empower people who are blind and visually impaired to participate fully in a sighted world. CNIB services are designed to meet the changing needs of three major client groups: children, working age adults, and seniors.

The CNIB provides seven core services: **Counselling and Referral** which provides support and consultation to blind, visually impaired or deafblind persons and their families to assist in their adjustment to vision loss in addition to ensuring the client accesses the necessary services through appropriate referrals; **Library Services** which ensures that blind and print disabled Canadians have equal access to alternative formats for culture, education and lifelong learning; **Orientation and Mobility** which assists persons to (re)establish safe, independent travel skills; **Rehabilitation Teaching** which assists visually impaired people maximize the use of their residual vision and promote the prevention of vision loss; **Career Counselling** provides a wide range of vocational, employment and business related services and programs; and **Technical Aids** provides consultants and demonstrations of a variety of high and low tech devices. These devices vary from simple needle threaders to computers with voice output, etc.

These services work together in a delicate balance to ensure the client is offered services that meet their needs and allow the individual to be independent and integrate into their own communities.

As of March 1999, the CNIB is currently serving 1056 clients in the region of Halton. Of this total 87 clients live in Halton Hills. For more information on this group please call (905) 275-5332 or toll-free (888) 275-5332.

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) Halton/Peel District is one of 19 agencies funded in part by the United Way of Halton Hills. Please look for our fundraising campaign in the fall and give generously.

The cost of the above information bulletin was kindly donated by:



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## Groups oppose Escarpment change

Community groups, individual residents and organizations with province-wide memberships are rallying behind protection of the Niagara Escarpment from the threat of creeping urbanization in Milton. They reject proposals to turn some Escarpment slopes into another built-up part of western Milton. They say the Escarpment should be fully recognized for what it is - a United Nations World Biosphere Reserve.

Four developer-landowners are seeking approvals from the provincial government either to have their lands removed from the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area or to keep their lands within the Plan but to designate them Urban Area. The lands are currently called Escarpment Protection Rural Area and Escarpment Rural Area, neither of which permits any significant scale of housing development.

On Wednesday, Sept. 15, Halton Regional Council adopted a compromise position which does not find favour with Escarpment protection advocates - allowing the Escarpment Rural Area lands to be designated Urban Area within the Niagara Escarpment Plan and keeping the other lands as is.

Groups such as Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER), the Halton/North Peel Naturalists and the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) maintain their position of opposition to any change in the land use designations for these lands. They say the is-

sue is simple: To amend the Niagara Escarpment Plan, a solid justification must be provided. Since these lands have not been identified by anyone or any agency except the four landowners as being required for the proposed expansion of Milton's urban area, they say there is no rationale for amending the Plan.

POWER and the Halton/North Peel naturalists are based in the Milton/Halton Hills area. CONE is a province-wide coalition of 20 environmental and community groups, including the Federation of Ontario naturalists, the Sierra Club of Eastern Canada, the Bruce Trail Association.

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## Natural Health News

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