

Conservation Halton inspired by Nature

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

"The Halton watershed has wildness with remoteness. It can be rugged and secluded, yet accessible and to a large extent has a subtle blend of human heritage and nature. Some of the most elegant and charming parts of the world are those in areas where traditional human settlement and activities have a gentle and compatible interface with nature. Large sections of the Halton watershed remain that way today." Artist Robert Bateman.

Photos of the rugged beauty of the Niagara Escarpment, a rare glacial lake and the Bruce Trail provided a riveting slide show as Conservation Halton officials presented a new strategic plan to protect and enhance the environment to Halton Hills Council on Monday.

The plan called "Inspired by Nature" is a blueprint to ensure the watershed - 948-

square-kilometres of land drained by 17 watercourses that flow into Lake Ontario - is protected for future generations.

Conservation Halton (formerly the Halton Conservation Authority), in partnership with the province and watershed municipalities, has been protecting the natural environment for 40 years with programs including flood control, wetland protection and environmental planning.

Now, they're at a turning point, according to Conservation Halton chairman Brian Penman, who told Council that urban growth threatens much of the green that remains in the watershed.

"We would like to see Nature's blue print on top of the stack," Penman said outlining five "green footsteps" or goals, inspired by nature to protect rich wetlands, streams, valleys, forests and Niagara Escarpment lands that weave through Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Halton Hills,

Flamborough and other watershed communities.

The goals include providing:

- a natural legacy for future generations
- leadership for wise use of natural resources
- water control and flood emergency programs
- financial stability and effectiveness in governance and administration
- educational and recreational experience in a natural environment for people of all ages

Along with 74 action plans to implement the goals, the strategic plan is based on three primary principles - listening, echoing and stewardship.

"Our plan is a listening vehicle to learn and understand nature more so we can manage and plan more effectively," Penman said, adding the echoing puts biologists and engineers on the same team. Stewardship includes encouraging other agencies

and private landowners to protect and enhance the natural environment.

"Managing Halton's watershed is a major undertaking that calls upon farmers, foresters, engineers, geologists, ecologists, local municipalities and ordinary citizens to commit their skills toward preserving this rich legacy," Penman said, adding as community leaders, Council has a great opportunity to put conservation on the map in the new millennium.

"Perhaps well-known Halton artist Robert Bateman said it best.

"The best things in life are not free anymore." He was referring to the fact that we can not take the natural environment for granted. We must take measures to protect it and make it a part of community development and daily living," Penman said.

Rotary BBQ on March 31

Proceeds from the second annual Acton Rotary open house BBQ chicken dinner to be held at the Acton arena on Friday, March 31 go to Rose Cherry House.

Guest speaker will be Rotarian Father Peter Watters, parish priest in Rockwood.

Tickets are \$7 each and must be purchased in advance. They can be purchased at Lakeview Flooring and Halton Hills Furniture.



HANDY GUIDE: With just a little help from dad, Martin, 3rd Acton Guide Stacey Van Opstal made this bird house at last week's meeting. Working with tools is now as important as domestic skills to Guides. - Frances Niblock photo



INTERGENERATIONAL GAMES: Acton senior Isobel McLean and Robert Little School students Chelsea Wright and Charlotte Tribble play a game of Guess Who? on Monday at the community centre. It was the third intergenerational get together for the students and seniors.

SENIORS' REC. CTR.

By DOT REDEKOP

I'm sorry to have to report that our St. Patrick's dance had to be cancelled. We are having a Special Lunch at noon for Friday, March 17. The cost is \$6 and there will be prizes.

The dance has been put over until Friday, May 24. More details once they are finalized.

Our trip to Rama on Wednesday, March 29 will be at the bargain price of two for \$5. This includes the buffet lunch. Anyone for bread pudding?

On April 12 we have a fish and chips supper and a movie. Time is 5:30 p.m. and the price is \$6.50. There will be a decorated hat contest with one prize for the women and one for the men.

Call the Centre at 853-5951

to get your name on the list for any of these activities.

We have had a very good response about our Newsletter. Thanks to anyone who phone in or came in to tell us. Now we feel like it ahs all been worth all the work.

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TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Working Together Working for You!

GET CONNECTED WITH THE NEW HYDRO CORPORATION!

The Town of Halton Hills will incorporate Halton Hills Hydro under the Ontario Business Corporations Act ("OBCA") before November 7, 2000. The Town will be the initial sole shareholder of the Halton Hills Hydro and its three affiliate Corporations. The Boards of Directors for these new corporations will be responsible for the conduct of these new corporations by balancing the need for competitive electricity prices to customers with the desire to maximize the return on its investment for the Halton Hills ratepayers. The various Boards' responsibilities will relate to the distribution of hydro; data communication via fiber optics; and services such as street lighting, design and maintenance, water heater rentals and water billing services.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To reflect its for-profit orientation, the Town is seeking several commercially oriented senior business leaders to become members of the Boards of Directors to help Halton Hills Hydro and its affiliate corporations make important decisions about their future.

Preference will be given to residents or ratepayers of the Town of Halton Hills, if they meet other criteria in several of the following areas: corporate finance experience; regulated industry experience; competitive energy market experience; previous Board experience; knowledge of legal and regulatory processes; understanding of energy, telecommunication services or other competitive markets; network/infrastructure industry experience; and retail, marketing and product development knowledge. To express your interest in the Director positions, please send a detailed résumé to S. Andrews, CAO, Town of Halton Hills, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills (Georgetown), ON L7G 5G2 or by fax to (905) 873-1431 no later than April 13, 2000.

We thank all applicants for your interest, however only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.

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