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The recent hot, hazy and humid days (and nights) of summer has made life difficult for many Acton Citizens.

We know that as little as ten minutes in the sun can cause exposed skin to burn. We know that the heat and humidity make daily chores difficult and the nights very uncomfortable.

Now take a moment and imagine what it would be like, if you were wearing a fur coat. Family pets suffer from the heat and humidity even more than we do. Your Halton Regional Police Service and your local Animal Control officers have recently rescued family pets, that unthinking people have left locked in cars or chained in the yard, in the blazing heat all day.

I ask all pet owners to please, provide plenty of fresh water and protection from the sun for all of your pets.

Do not take family pets in the car, even for a short ride in hot weather. It takes just a few minutes in a car interior to reach deadly temperatures. Leaving the car windows down a couple of inches doesn't cool the interior. At home, provide a cool, shady place for your pet to rest during the day.

Take the time to care.

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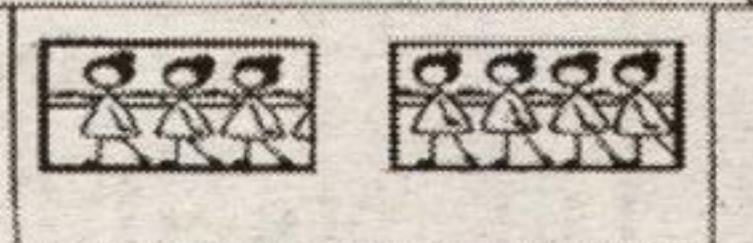
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Recreation and Parks Revitalize programs to interest all ages

Fall is on its way and Halton Hills Recreation and Parks is revitalizing its programs to entice everyone to enjoy them at any age.

At the pools, more Diaper Fit and Arthritis Exercise classes have been added to accommodate fitness needs. They have improved the way to register for private and semi-private swimming lessons; you can choose from pre-scheduled days and times for 5-week sessions.

Wondering what to do for fun on P.A. Days? Go for an afternoon leisure swim at the Gellert pool. They have increased Early Bird recreational swims and also introduced After School, Teen and Senior Swims at Gellert.

Prefer not to get your feet wet? There are many exciting new 'dry land' programs for children and youth from newborn to 12 years olds. Parents and children can spend quality time together at Creative Play or Family Playhouse burning off some excess energy. Prospect Park in Acton is the place to be for all things techno. Go on an engineering adventure at Team Tek. Uncover clues about the disappearance of dinosaurs at Dinosaur Hunters or make it rain indoors at Weather Funomena.

At Studio Art, draw on your creativity while working in various medium such as paper, clay and painting. Are you a natural ham? Learn about developing characters and scene building through improvisation at Theatre games.

If sports are more in your game plan, try Sports Galore, enjoy basketball, indoor soccer and handball with a few

other surprises thrown in. Slam Dunk, the popular youth basketball program, is even better this season as participants will be assigned to teams, develop their skills and then put those skills into play.

12 to 18-year-olds won't be bored this fall. A great way to end the day, at the Youth Afterschool Club you can get together with friends, go swimming and even have a blast catching up on homework. Head for the Gellert on Friday nights for a Teen Swim, Youth Dance or make a night of it and do both.

The Babysitting Course is a smart way to prepare for emergencies and learn about child development and behaviour management. Be ready for that first part time job.

These are only some of the programs that will be offered this fall... Ballroom Dancing, Strollercize, Pilates, Stretch & Walk, Martial Arts, dance ... The list just goes on. For the full fall lineup, watch for the Town of Halton Hills 2004/5 Fall and Winter Community Activity and Service Guide to be delivered starting the weekend of August 20. Fall lottery registration deadline is Wednesday, September 1 by 4:30 p.m.

All registrations are processed by Recreation & Parks at the Civic Centre but can also be dropped off at the Acton Community Centre and the Gellert Community Centre or can be faxed to (905) 873-1587 with credit card number. Call the Program Information Hotline at (905) 873-2601, ext. 2275 or visit the Town website at www.haltonhills.ca.

Keep on eye on sky

Keep your eye on the sky tonight (August 12) when the annual popular shower of meteors is expected to be at its best.

Called Perseids, the meteors are visible starting in mid-July but moonlight interferes during early August as the rates increase gradually. On August 11 a steep increase of meteors begins and they are clearly visible on clear evenings.

Expect 10-20 Perseids an hour and more from the morning twilight until the sky is bright. Remember you'll only see them best from a truly dark site.

Perseids aren't the only meteors out there. There are others with sporadic rates of 10-15 an hour.

Firefighters hurt ...

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were treated at the scene and one was transported to Guelph General Hospital where he was treated for minor burns and released.

There are 14 apartments in the complex. One apartment suffered fire damage while two others were damaged by smoke. Volunteers from Victim Services Wel-

lington and the Red Cross Disaster Team attended the scene. Alternate accommodations were found for the tenants while repairs are conducted to the building.

Cause of the fire is not known and damage is yet to be determined. Police will conduct no further investigation.