

# Raccoon rabies strain moving towards Halton

A raccoon rabies strain, that has moved steadily up the United States from Florida since the 1940s, is now poised to penetrate this area. Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Robert Nosal told Halton's health and social services committee this raccoon rabies poses a far more dangerous threat than the fox rabies that has been in Ontario for years.

That's because there are 10 times more raccoons living in or around urban areas than there are foxes.

And the spread of fox rabies has been checked thanks to an oral vaccine air-dropped as bait by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). On Monday (Sept. 20), the MNR's Rabies Research Unit will start aerial baiting in the rural areas including Halton Hills, to immunize foxes against Arctic fox rabies. The bait drops will continue until Oct. 2. The baits are small squares of icing-sugar vanilla flavored, waxy substance. Enclosed in each green-colored bait is a plastic blister pack containing 1.8 ml of liquid vaccine. A label on the bait warns that it is bait and not to be eaten.

Since MNR baiting began, cases of animal rabies in Ontario have dropped from 2,000 in the 1980s to 79 in 1998. Halton can

cite similar statistics, recording 42 rabid animals in 1981 and only one since 1996. The rabies virus, which attacks the central nervous system, is typically spread through animal bites.

"Unfortunately, there is no cure for rabies. If a human gets rabies, they die," said Nosal.

There is no approved oral vaccine for raccoon rabies in Ontario as yet.

A lot of progress on preventing rabies could be undone if the new strain makes headway into the province, said Dr. Nosal.

"If raccoon rabies came into Ontario, we would be back in the thousands again," he warned.

The Halton Regional Health Department (HRHD) has been gearing up to take on the problem since the early 1990s. In 1995, the region instituted mandatory vaccination for cats and dogs. For low income families, the HRHD has introduced a voucher program allowing pets to be vaccinated at a discount price. Educational programs are in place at elementary schools and information sheets are available to the public.

Should a rabid animal be found in Halton, the health department has a contingency plan in place. To prevent the

spread of rabies, raccoons and skunks would be euthanized within a five mile radius of where the rabid animal was found.

For extra protection, animals within a 10 mile radius would be vaccinated.

—By Irene Gentle, special

## CORRECTION NOTICE

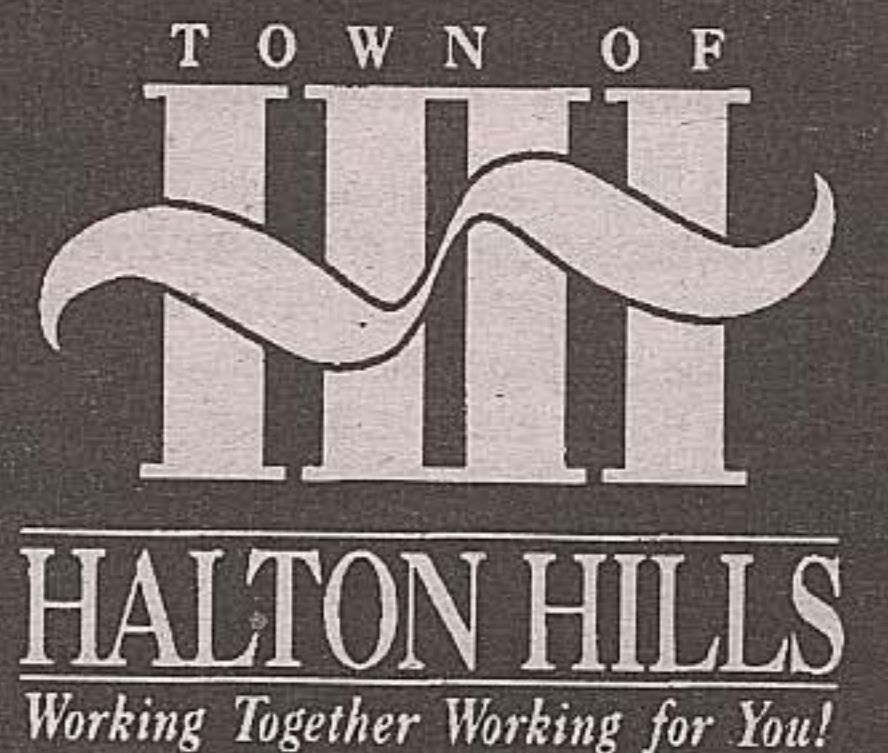
The St. Ives Dark Circle Diminisher advertised on page 5 of the Shoppers Drug Mart flyer in effect from Sunday, September 19th until Saturday, September 25th, 1999 is not available in Canada.

We apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

**SHOPPERS DRUG MART**



Jim and Lin Redford of Georgetown are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Andrea Marie to James Darren, son of Clarke and Carolyn Rutherford of Georgetown. Wedding to take place at the Delta Meadowvale, Mississauga on Saturday, September 25th, 1999.



### SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

RE: MAJOR INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Date: Monday, September 20, 1999  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Civic Centre  
1 Halton Hills Drive  
Halton Hills (Georgetown)  
Purpose: To consider the Major Indoor Recreation Facility Study Recommendations

Copies of the staff report are available from the Clerk's Department, Civic Centre, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills (Georgetown).

If you wish to appear as a delegation at this meeting, please register with Barbara McEwan, Town Clerk (905) 873-2601, ext. 337, by noon, Thursday, September 16, 1999.

PUBLIC WELCOME

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### APPOINTMENTS

#### APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Town of Halton Hills is currently accepting applications for appointment to the various Committees noted below. Appointments will expire in December, 2000. Meetings for all of the Committees are held in the evenings.

#### Town Environmental Advisory Committee (TEAC)

TEAC is an advisory body to Halton Hills Council and is comprised of individuals who have a professional interest in the field of environmental management and also those who have a personal interest in environmental protection.

#### Heritage Halton Hills

The Committee acts as an advisory body to Halton Hills Council respecting the designation of buildings and areas of historic and architectural interest under the Ontario Heritage Act.

#### Halton Hills Public Library Board

The Library Board acts as a decision-making body to set policy for the management, regulation and control of the Library.

The member to be appointed will represent the Halton District Board of Education. Individuals must be 18 years of age, Canadian Citizen and a resident of Halton Hills, and must not be a municipal, library board or school board employee.

If you are interested in applying for appointment to one of these Committees, please submit a letter of interest along with a brief resumé to the undersigned no later than Friday, September 24th, 1999 at 4:30 p.m.

Dorothy McDonald  
Deputy Clerk  
Town of Halton Hills  
1 Halton Hills Drive  
P.O. Box 128  
HALTON HILLS (Georgetown), ON  
L7G 5G2

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P.O. Box 128, 1 Halton Hills Dr.,  
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Sara Harley graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Science degree in Honours Science on June 18, 1999. She is currently working for Promotional Marketing Group, a large marketing company in Toronto.

Way to go Sara, we are so proud of you.

All our love  
Mom & Jim, Dad & Cathy  
and Matt

### HAPPY 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

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Evelyn Hennessey  
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