

Region spending hundreds of thousands to ensure local well water is safe to drink

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with the province's new Drinking Water Protection Regulations and in 2001, that figure will jump to \$400,000. That 2001 amount includes spending \$134,000 on lab services, \$50,000 on lab staff, and \$150,000 for a province-required engineer's report on north Halton and Oakville's systems.

The cost of the more frequent testing at the Acton wells has been \$8,000 so far this year and will be about \$17,000 next year.

The frequency of testing for other Halton Hills wells (Cedarvale, Princess Anne, Lindsay Court, Prospect Park) have also been increased from weekly to twice weekly— also costing about \$17,000 a year.

The Georgetown well system inspection by Ministry of Environment inspectors revealed that all maintenance and operations requirements are being met and the water source is being disinfected to MOE's satisfaction. As well, treated water met all health-related parameters.

To date Halton Region has spent \$15,000 to modify equipment at Halton Hills waterworks

to meet MOE methods of collecting data.

Acres and Associates has been hired to produce a report with recommendations to upgrade or

replace existing systems that will eliminate all concerns related to bacteria, viruses or parasites.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer



Food for thought

St. Brigid's School students once again held a food drive last week for the Thanksgiving weekend and were able to collect more than 2,500 canned goods in three days. The food was donated to the Georgetown Breadbasket Food Bank. Among those helping were (from left) Gabi Piraglia, teacher Marie De Santis, Jessica Tangiano, Nikita Rinaldi, Ana Dominkovic and Samantha Bolland.

Photo by Ted Brown

Region gets 80-150 samples a day Testing of private wells soars

Halton residents who own private wells have been jolted into action in the wake of contaminated municipal water supply in Walkerton.

As a result, Halton Region Health Department (HRHD) is still receiving between 80 to 150 local water samples results a day. The department is copied results of samples that homeowners sent to Ministry of Health laboratories. The number of calls from the public on water safety has dropped from 65 per day in June and July to 25-30 per day in August and September, which is still far more than normal.

"If there's one good thing that came out of Walkerton, it's that it served as a wake-up call for residents that they can't just dismiss E. coli," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton medical officer of health.

Poor well construction, sewage leaks and agricultural run-off can lead to positive sample results.

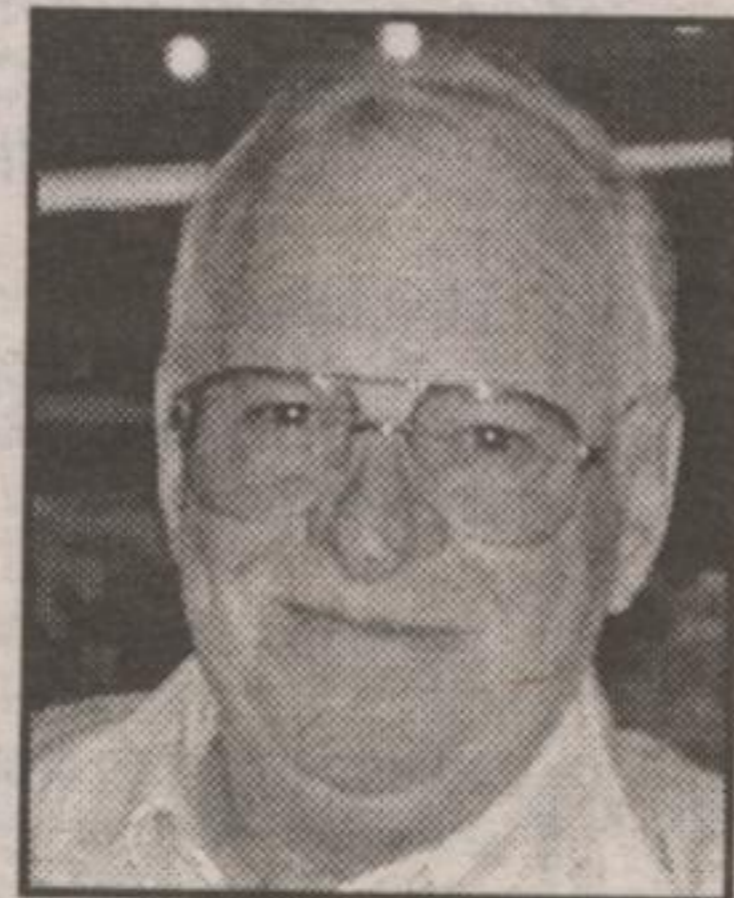
Currently Halton Region is surveying privately-owned wells in order to best devise a public education campaign. The aim will be to teach residents how to protect, check and maintain their wells.

As a last resort, Halton Region is attempting to obtain discounted water treatment devices for residents who find conventional fixes haven't worked.

—By Irene Gentle, special

What You Said

'What would you do if you won the big (\$20 million) Super 7 lottery?'



Frank Jamieson, retired, Thorold

"I would grab the money and move to the Cayman Islands as fast as I could, because if I didn't Ottawa would find some way to separate me from the money."



Jill Wickham, housewife, Georgetown

"First of all, half would go to charity, like Sick Kids, or cancer research, and then I'd start handing some over to family and friends. I'd pay off all the bills, buy a new home, and then start thinking about what I'd do with the rest."



Donald Chapman, retired, Georgetown

"I would think that it was some kind of miracle to win the lottery, since the odds of winning are higher than being hit by lightning. I know I'll never win, but it's fun playing."



Cory Govier, customer service phone centre, Brampton

"I'm not really sure, but I'd likely take a long trip, then probably move to someplace new, maybe Toronto."



Christina James, stay-at-home mom, Georgetown

"I have absolutely no idea what I'd do, since I simply play for fun. I think I'd likely take a long cruise somewhere, since that's something I've never done."

Hornby group to host all-candidates meeting

Hornby Association of Rate Payers hosts an all-candidates meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 18 for Ward 2 local, Wards 1/2 regional and mayoralty candidates.

This meeting will be held 7:30 p.m. at the Hornby Glen Golf Course. The evening will begin with time-limited speeches from the candidates. Then proceed with questions from the floor through the association's referee, Barbara Dixon.

For more information call: Erik Kowal, (905) 876-1582 or kowale@stn.net or Jim Snow, (905) 878-2437 or pineland@sympatico.ca.

Police blotter

Toronto driver faces charges

A Toronto man was charged with impaired driving and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood after he was stopped in a RIDE spot check at Hall Rd. and Guelph St. Saturday night. Charged is Jorge Casimiro, 23, of Winnett Ave.

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Another vehicle has been reported stolen from Georgetown Chrysler after a break-in there last weekend in which 16 vehicle keys were stolen. A 1995 Dodge Ram, valued at about \$18,000, which was at the dealership to be repaired, was stolen along with three 2000 vehicles.

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