

Meet Halton's new country Naturopath

Naturopathic
Health Care
for the
whole family.



GRAND OPENING CLINIC IN THE WOODS SATURDAY, OCT. 13 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Ribbon-cutting, 1:30 p.m. (Mayor of Erin, Rod Finnie, and Mayor Kathy Gastle of Halton Hills will do the honours).
Tours, displays, presentations, refreshments.
Meet your new country Naturopath,
Sussanna Czeranko, N.D. (in practise since 1994).
Clinic in the Woods, 5330 Fourth Line, Erin. Just minutes south of Denny's Bus Lines off #24. Coming north from #7, watch for the *Fire Circle Farm* and *Clinic in the Woods* sign on your left.

Clinic in the Woods
519-833-2580

Plan offers a framework for growth

The growth in Halton Region is placing more demands on the services we provide. Child care, a crucial service for the healthy development of children and for the peace of mind of parents and employers alike, is one service we have recently assessed.

Like other communities in Halton, the majority of residents in Georgetown work outside the home, creating greater demand for quality care—demand that will increase in the future as Georgetown continues to grow.

In April 1999, the Regional Municipality of Halton assumed the service system management responsibilities for child care programs and as part of this service transfer from the province, a three to five year strategic plan was required. In June, 2001, the Halton Child Care Plan was released providing an assessment of child care needs today and a glimpse into the future.

Extensive research was conducted in Halton. A total of 12 focus groups with users and providers were held in Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Halton Hills. In addition, 800 randomly selected households, 200 from each of the municipalities of the region, completed telephone surveys.

Results showed some common themes among child care providers—low wages, increasing demand for services, under funding and waiting lists. Issues identified by child care users included the high cost of licensed and unlicensed services, waiting lists and increasingly limited resources.

A number of issues need to be addressed to provide solutions to obvi-

THE REGION REPORT



Joyce Savoline

ous challenges like supply and demand. Population forecasts project a 9 percent increase in the 0-12 age group by 2005, which means that new spaces will need to be created in order to keep up with the projected growth.

Another significant finding was the change in parent's preference and use of licensed care. A 1989 telephone survey indicated that 20 per cent of child care system users preferred the licensed child care system. Our recent survey indicated that the figure has increased to 35 per cent.

We have always valued the opinions of the community. Now, thanks to your input, the Halton Child Care Plan outlines 60 recommendations and a framework for growth that will be implemented over the next five years.

Our goal is for Halton's child care system to grow with your community and for the residents of Georgetown to have access to the child care options of choice. We will keep you updated on our progress.

—Joyce Savoline is the chair of Halton Region



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