

Board tempers enthusiasm for promised education cash

Sober second thought has Carla Kisko believing public education officials in Halton will be disappointed when the provincial government gets around to announcing its funding increases to individual school boards.

The superintendent of business for the Halton District School Board said a conversation she had with a Ministry of Education employee recently leaves her with the impression the government's \$350 million in additional funding unveiled earlier that day will have only slight impact here, if no more money is forthcoming.

New Education Minister Elizabeth Witmer said her Conservative government has now committed \$14.21 billion to education for the 2002-03 school year. It is pumping another \$200 million into the local priorities amount for ongoing costs including classroom teachers, special education and remedial help for students. It means an increase to \$200 per pupil from \$100 to be rolled into all boards' annual base funding.

The \$100 per pupil is the most significant and relevant increase, Kisko noted, amounting to about \$4.3 million more per year based on the public board's current total of 43,000 full-time equivalent elementary and high school students.

She said the new money with flexible uses represents about a 1.7 per cent bump in general revenues to be received from the province. The board previously expected to get \$281.4 million for its 2002-03 budget.

"We need \$5-7 million to address the (funding) gaps in other areas, if you don't deal with wages," said Kisko. "If this 1.7 per cent is supposed to cover wages too, we're in big trouble."

—By Tim Whitnell, special



Lorne Scots in action

Pte. Michael Pilith (left) of Mississauga and Pte. David McClean of Brampton prepare to rappel off the tower at the Todd Road Armoury under the direction of Lorne Scots rappel master WO Bert Hiscock as students in the Lorne Scots Co-op Education program held an open house recently to demonstrate what they had learned. At right (inset) Pte. Ian Wood of Georgetown showed great style as he took part in the rifle drill.

Photos by Ted Brown

Annual bash set for Saturday

Norval prepared to celebrate Riverfest

Norval celebrates life on the Credit River with its daylong festival, Riverfest, this Saturday. The fourth annual event gets under way at 9 a.m. and continues to 4 p.m.

This year's highlight will be the first Paddle to the Sea Miniature Boat Race. Riverfest co-ordinator Gini Dalgas hopes this new event will contribute to learning about the importance of protecting our waterways.

"The Paddle to the Sea Race is a fun, creative and a thoughtful activity that will put participants in direct contact with the river," she said.

The idea for the race comes from the National Film Board film classic, directed by Bill Mason and adapted from the book by Holling C. Holling. A young native boy carves a man in a canoe and sets it on the snow just north of Lake Superior. When the snow melts, the canoe called "Paddle to the Sea" sets off on a journey from the Great Lakes, down the St. Lawrence River, and on to the Atlantic Ocean.

One hundred boats have been carved by Georgetown District High School students. Each boat measures one foot in length, and people who enter the race will decorate their boatmen with river friendly materials and write an environmental message related to water conservation. Prizes will be awarded to the first three boats to finish the race with the winner having their message engraved on the bottom of their boat and ceremoniously put back in to the Credit River and sent on its voyage to the sea as

the Riverfest Ambassador for Waterways Protection.

Paddle to the Sea Boat Race registration and decoration is being held at Willow Park Ecology Centre, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All entrants will also receive a ticket to enter a draw for a Necky Recreational Kayak at the event. The Riverfest Planning Committee is asking for a \$4 donation to cover sponsorship of the boat and the boat man that can be taken home after the race.

Riverfest
2002

May 25 in Norval, Ontario, Canada

In addition to the Paddle to the Sea, visitors can enjoy a wide range of events and attractions at Riverfest 2002. Sparks will be flying at Canoe Country as the creator of their six-foot wooden bear, chainsaw carver Peter Mogenson returns this year. The Credit River Anglers and the Llamas of Wyldewood Llama Treks will also be at this location.

There will be a cold water rescue demonstration on the Credit River by the Halton Hills Volunteer Fire Department (11:30 a.m.) and Hiker Mike Kerby of CFRB 1010 AM will lead a hike (9 a.m.) with Maureen Smith of the local chapter of the Bruce Trail Association along the Credit Valley Footpath in to the Upper Canada College Outdoor School property. For

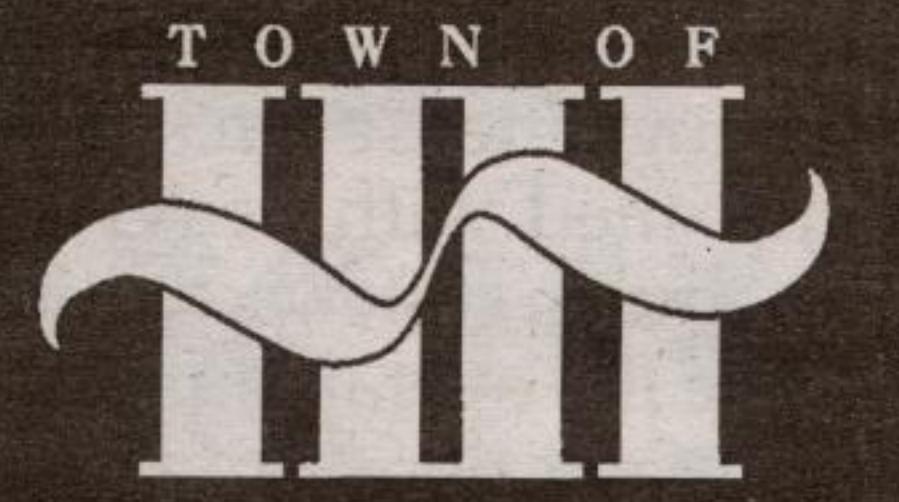
more information call Smith at 905-873-9757.

Interactive displays and activities at Norval Park and Willow Park Ecology Centre will include a Riverside Vendors' Market, fly fishing lessons, fly tying, water conservation activities, a prospector's campsite, story telling, a portable rock climbing wall, live snake and amphibian display, electro fishing demonstrations, barbecue, a music tent with folk musician Dan Bergeron from the Adirondack mountains, and the band, Classic Folk, from Georgetown. Something a little unusual to see will be a "live" butterfly release in the Butterfly Garden every half hour.

At Norval Presbyterian Church, the OPP Choir will present an afternoon choral concert from 2-4 p.m. and finally, finish the day off with a barbecue dinner, 4-8 p.m., at Norval United Church's 35th annual dinner at Huttonville Public School (Embleton Rd., west of Mississauga Rd.).

Call Lorne Cowan at 905-459-2837 to reserve your tickets: adults \$10 (\$11 at the door); children \$5 (\$6 at the door).

A schedule of events and a map is available at the Riverfest Web site www.canoe-country.com/rivrfest_2002. They will be also available at information booths set up at Norval Convenience Store and the entrance to Norval Park. Visitors are encouraged to park at Nashville North; all activities are within walking distance. An entrance donation to the Riverfest attractions at Norval Park is appreciated—adults \$4, children \$2, family \$10.



Working Together Working for You!

OPEN HOUSE

NOTICE OF AN OPEN HOUSE URBAN DESIGN STUDY FOR THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Town of Halton Hills is in the process of undertaking an Official Plan Review. An important aspect of the Review is to obtain input from the community to help guide the future direction of the Town. The Town has identified several areas of study which need to be undertaken to supplement new Official Plan policies, including an Urban Design Study, Commercial Study, Rural Area Study and Subwatershed Study. We are inviting you to contribute your views on the future of the Town of Halton Hills with regards to the Urban Design Study at an Open House being held on:

Tuesday, May 28, 2002
Council Chambers, Civic Centre
1 Halton Hills Drive
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Background information and illustration panels will be on display at the Open House prior to the commencement of the evening's program. A brief presentation about the Town of Halton Hills Official Plan Program will be made, followed by the Urban Design study component, which will be the focus of the evening and discussions. The Town's consultants will be examining particular areas in Halton Hills including the Georgetown and Acton downtowns, Georgetown's Guelph Street Commercial corridor and the Georgetown GO Station.

6:00-6:30 - Drop in, view display panels
6:30-7:30 - Overview of Urban Design Study
7:30-8:30 - Question and Answer Period
8:30-9:00 - Informal Discussion Period

We value your input and hope you can join us. Information on the Town of Halton Hills Official Plan Program is available at:
<http://www.town.halton-hills.on.ca>
(Planning & Development Services Department).

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ROAD CLOSURES

On Monday, May 27th, 2002 the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills intends to enact by-laws authorizing the temporary closure of various roads within the municipality for the purpose of the following community events:

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES DUE TO EVENTS

A. McGibbon Hotel Outdoor Beer Garden

(Village Festival - Georgetown)
From 3:00 p.m. Thursday, June 13
to 2:30 a.m. Sunday, June 16, 2002
Main Street between Mill and James Street
(Mill Street open to traffic)

B. Village Festival (Georgetown)

From 8:00 p.m. Friday, June 14 to
6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 15, 2002
Mill Street South between Church Street and
James Street (Mill Street open to traffic)

C. Outdoor Farmers Market (Georgetown)

Each Saturday from June 15, to October 19, 2002
From 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Main Street South between Church Street and
James Street (Mill Street open to traffic)

The Council Meeting will commence at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 27, 2002 in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, 1 Halton Hills Drive. At this meeting, Council will hear, in person, any person who claims to be prejudicially affected by the said by-law and who applies to the Town Clerk at 873-2601, ext. 2331, before the Council Meeting.

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