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Future of local nature reserves in doubt, says watchdog group

Three proposed nature reserves in the Georgetown area may be casualties of changes being considered to a program that provides money to purchase and conserve ecologically-significant lands, says an Escarpment watchdog group.

Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) reports that land for the nature reserves, totaling approximately 230 acres, may not be able to be purchased due to a change to the provincial government's Ecological Land Acquisition Program (ELAP).

The program provides funds to conservation authorities, and more recently land trusts, to purchase ecologically sensitive lands on the Niagara Escarpment and conserve them as nature reserves.

Three of the properties on the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy's list of properties to purchase include 120 acres on the Fourth Line near Speyside, 15 acres south-east of Terra Cotta Conservation Authority, and a 90-acre property adjacent to Silver Creek Conservation Area.

The province is proposing to expand the

See NATURE, pg. 3

A day to remember

Firefighters from Halton Hills Fire Department joined with officers from Halton Regional Police at both the Acton (below) and Georgetown fire halls Wednesday morning as they observed a two-minute silence in memory of last year's terrorist attacks on the United States.

Photo by Ted Brown



Timberrrrrr!

Halton Hills Hydro employee Mike Quantrell was busy Wednesday afternoon cleaning up debris from a fallen tree at the Market Street and Park Avenue intersection which knocked out power in the area, including traffic lights at Maple and Main and Maple and Delrex. The large branch split away from the tree, snapping the top off a hydro pole at the corner.

Photo by Ted Brown

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Cookin'
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