


The Independent Weekend & Free Press

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New filtration system credited with improving town's water

Thanks to a new \$2.6 million filtration system, discoloured tap water in Georgetown should be a thing of the past.

Gord Devine, acting manager of water plants for Halton Region, said they had been receiving frequent calls from the public complaining about the colour of water coming from their taps but since the system was installed at the Georgetown water treatment plant a couple of weeks ago he doesn't believe there have been any calls.

The cause of the reddish-brown and black coloured water is the high natural manganese content coming from the Cedarvale wells and affected homes in the Delrex Blvd. area (bound by Guelph St. and Maple Ave. to Silver Creek).

Manganese, a harmless but unpleasant looking substance that reacts with oxygen and household detergents to create discoloured water, doesn't pose a health problem but was an aesthetic concern.

"We know that many people find these occurrences unpleasant, which was unsatisfactory to us from a service perspective," said Ric Robertshaw, Halton's director of environmental services. "We have an excellent water quality record in Halton Region, and we are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that our customer satisfaction performance is just as good."

The new system will significantly reduce the naturally occurring manganese in Georgetown's source water by filtering it through specialized catalytic media filters.

Some incidents of discoloured water may still occur over the next few weeks as remaining traces of manganese are cleaned out of the water distribution system. The watermain cleaning program is scheduled to start October 6 and will focus on areas of Georgetown that have experienced the most acute discoloration problems.

The work will be done between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. and residents will be notified of the work scheduled for their street two days before the work is to be done.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



Technician Tom Eisele of Hungerford & Terry Inc. of Clayton, N.J. checks the calibration Tuesday on the filtration system his company installed at the Maple Avenue station. The system, which was put in opera-

tion in early September, can handle 2.2 million gallons of water per day, and is primarily used to remove manganese from Georgetown's water.

Photo by Ted Brown

In provincial testing Local high schools come up short

The results of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test are in, and the percentage of students at Georgetown and Acton High Schools who passed both parts of the test fell short of the provincial and Halton Board averages.

At Acton District High School 73 per cent (94) of the 128 students who completed the test in February successfully passed both the reading and writing component of the test, 5 per cent passed the writing component only, 12 per cent passed the reading only and 9 per cent failed both reading and writing.

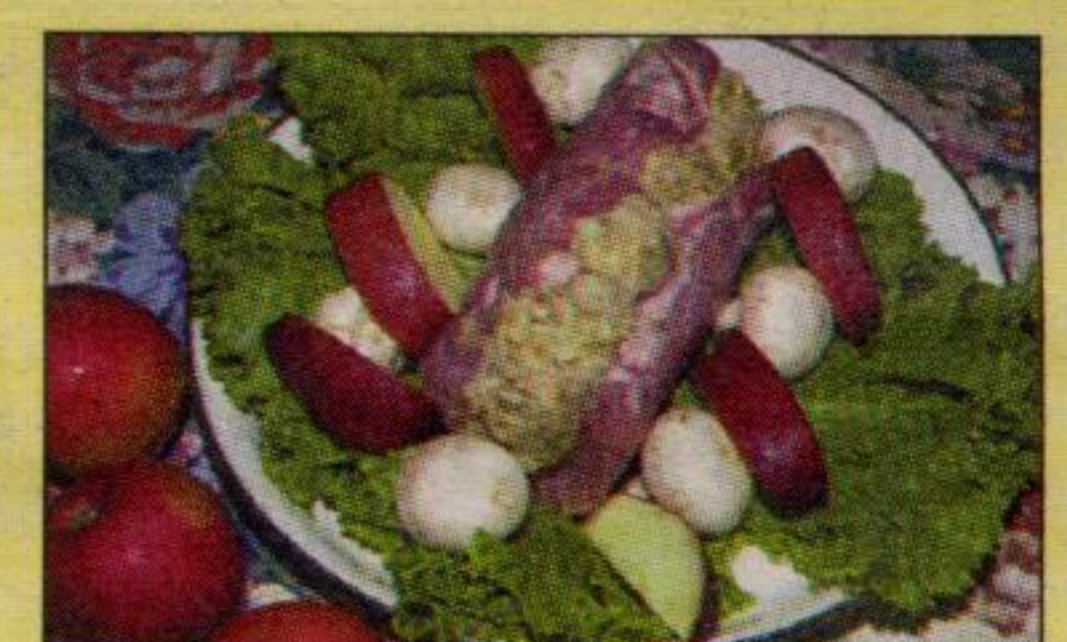
At Georgetown High School 72 per

cent (225) of the 311 students who completed it, passed both components of the test, 14 per cent failed both, 7 per cent passed writing only and 9 per cent passed reading only.

Provincially, 75 per cent of students successfully completed both the reading and writing components of the test and in Halton (at both school boards) 82 per cent of students passed.

The percentage of Bishop Reding students who passed both components of the test was slightly higher than the board average, at 83 per cent.

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