

# Six does a year to be killed on college land Council gives okay for deer hunt

Halton Hills council approved a controlled deer hunt on the Upper Canada College property in Georgetown, at Monday's meeting.

A maximum of six deer per year over the next three years will be culled. Only does will be targeted to keep breeding under control.

The college operates the Norval Outdoor School on the predominately forested 450-acre property on the west side of Winston Churchill Blvd. and north of Hwy. 7.

According to Ministry of Natural Resources fish and wildlife biologist Mark Heaton, the college property is a wintering area for approximately 60 deer, and their over-abundance is causing extensive damage to the young vegetation on that property as well as to neighbouring farmers. The deer over-abundance is due to a lack of natural predators.

The only way to reduce the problem, he said, is to harvest the animals during deer-hunting season: Oct. 15 to Nov. 3 and Nov. 9 to Dec. 31. Due to its urban location, he suggests archery hunting, which is quiet and doesn't cause concern for local neighbours. Archery hunters hunt only for a few hours at daybreak and late in the day to dusk from elevated tree platforms. The heart will be targeted so the deer will go down quickly and humanely. The animals will be harvested for their meat.

The hunt will occur on weekends when there are no students and other users on the property, and the dawn and dusk hours will minimize the likelihood of trespassing. The hunt will be held only on the east side of the Credit River and no closer than 300 metres from the property boundaries. Adjacent neighbours will be informed of the timing of the hunt.

The College said it "will make use of three to six local, experienced archery hunters who will work closely with each other and with us in order to ensure a safe and effective

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Rick Bonnette



hunt that is as humane as possible." Halton Region Police will review the hunters' credentials.

The college will indemnify the town for the duration of the hunt.

Councillor Moya Johnson opposed the killing of the deer, and wanted to know why the deer could not be tranquillized and moved to another location.

Heaton replied southern Ontario forests are at-capacity with white-tailed deer.

"What about northern Ontario?" asked Johnson.

Northern Ontario forests have a different type of landscape and ecology, Heaton replied, adding the MNR doesn't encourage the mixing of the deer with the northern Ontario moose population. The deer, he said, could introduce a parasite to the moose.

Johnson then suggested moving the animals to a deer farm where they will be killed humanely.

However, Heaton said the MNR doesn't encourage the transport of wild deer to an inspected farm, since, once again, the deer could infect the farm animals.

"If there was another alternative, we would investigate that further,

but I think with the degree of damage occurring here as well as in neighbouring orchards the best thing to do is control the population, using hunting as the best means," Heaton told Johnson. "We encourage hunting as a tool to manage the population, not to track, tranquilize and transfer to other locations."

Heaton said that if the animals were not hunted, there would soon be a lack of food, resulting in loss of size and vigor of the deer leading to a susceptibility to parasites and starvation. That situation has occurred in Pinery and Long Point provincial parks.

Here, if the deer population is allowed to increase, there is also a danger of more crop damage plus vehicle and deer collisions occurring on Hwy. 7 and on River Dr., he said.

Councillor Rick Bonnette said he was on Halton Region council in 1985 when it voted to ban deer hunting for one year. He agreed with Heaton, farmland damage, tripling of car accidents, and an increase in wolves and coyotes resulted a year later.

"Unfortunately the deer is such a nice-looking animal. If it was a warthog, I don't think some of us would be half as concerned. I think we're all reluctant to approve this, but we know what the consequences are if we don't," Bonnette said.

Everyone on council supported the controlled hunt, except for Johnson.

Council also agreed to give the resolution immediate final reading, as well, instead of waiting until the Nov. 25 council meeting. Johnson objected to the final approval, saying she wanted an opportunity for council's "second sober thought" on the matter as well as give the public a chance to express their opinion. Only Councillor Joan Robson supported Johnson's failed bid.

—By Cynthia Gamble,  
staff writer



## Tool time

Maureen Fariello is the proud owner of a Black & Decker workshop valued at more than \$1,000 after winning a Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distribution contest that drew 15,000 entries. The contest was advertised in the recent "There's no place like home" publication that was distributed in all Metroland newspapers, including *The Independent & Free Press*. On hand to present Fariello, centre, with her prizes, which included a RD1440K limited edition anniversary drill, were *Independent & Free Press* publisher Ken Nugent (left) and Black & Decker director of marketing Brett Maves. Fariello filled out the winning ballot after reading *The Independent & Free Press*.

Photo by Ted Brown

A Halton Hills man was charged with impaired driving and refusing to provide a breath sample after police responded to a single-car accident on Fifth Line south of Hwy. 7 Friday. When officers arrived they found a man with minor facial injuries walking south of the accident.

Charged is James Ross, 41, of 20 Sideroad.

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A Mississauga man was charged with careless driving after a vehicle

left the roadway on Dublin Line and struck a tree Saturday afternoon.

Charged is Ilija Rusnov, 69, of Mannington Cr.

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Police are investigating a break and enter into two businesses on Main St. in Georgetown late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

Police report someone broke into



Wyecliffe Property Management by prying open a rear door and then went through the wall into the adjoining Hasty Market.

Stolen from the variety store was an unknown quantity of tobacco products.

The store was broken into last month when thieves also went through the wall.

Several vehicles were damaged on Delrex Blvd. late Monday or early Tuesday.

Police report windshields were smashed, hoods and roofs were dented and vehicles were scratched at several homes.

Damage included \$1,000 to a 1998 Pontiac Sunfire, \$2,000 to a 1998 Plymouth Neon, \$250 to a 1989 Buick Regal. A total of \$2,500 in damage was done to a 2000 Honda Accord and 2002 Chrysler SLX parked at one home.

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