

# Letters to the editor...Letters to the editor...Letters to the editor...

## Does board have safety policies in place?

Dear editor,  
On May 14, 2003 Alex Bonehill perished in a horrific car accident. Alex was a nine-year-old boy whose smile would light up a room in an instant. He was full of life with a bright future ahead of him. His birthday would have been this month.

At the time of the accident, Alex was attending a six-week program as part of his school curriculum. This program was located in Milton with candidates limited to a maximum of six students. Included in this program was transportation co-ordinated through the Halton District School Board for the children.

On this day in May, there were two children being transported by taxi. They were on their way home from attending this program when the accident occurred. As a result of the accident, the taxi driver was charged with careless driving.

With the safety and well-being of children being transported via taxi to the school program, one would expect prudent policies and practices, with respect to the contracting of such taxi companies, would be implemented.

As a mother of a child who has also attended this program, I have the following

unanswered questions: What do these policies and practices entail, if indeed they do exist? Are parents informed that there is no consistency with the driver of the taxi and that any member of the taxi company may be transporting their children? Are these taxi drivers subjected to the same testing and training as school bus drivers? Is it simply a matter of financial restraint causing the use of a taxi versus a regulated school bus?

With the lives of children at risk, one would expect the school board to ensure that adequate policies and practices are implemented and enforced. The safety of our children depends upon it.

Karen King, Georgetown

## CAS-HH thanked for support

Dear editor,  
The diagnosis of cancer is very traumatic and when you must go out of town for treatments there is additional stress in just getting to the treatments and in returning home each day. My situation was made so much easier by a group of people based in Georgetown and I would like to acknowledge them through your paper.

I am very grateful to the people who are involved with the Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills for being so supportive to me during the last few months. The office staff, Sheila and Diane, who sched-

uled the drivers for the daily visits to Toronto, were always there to listen and solve any problems. The volunteer drivers, some being cancer survivors themselves, offered great conversation and companionship during our trips to Princess Margaret Hospital.

The citizens of Georgetown are so fortunate to be able to rely on these wonderful volunteers and I would like to thank them publicly for their efforts on my behalf.

One need not fight cancer alone when such wonderful people are only a phone call away.

Wayne Preston, Georgetown

## Theft of ornamental skunks disappoints resident

Dear editor,  
I would like to express my disappointment in an incident that happened recently in my neighbourhood.

I was celebrating a birthday and my children gave me a lawn card consisting of an 8-foot skunk and 20 little ornamental skunks made of plastic that sat on the lawn. This was put up at 12 a.m.

Saturday and at 10 p.m. the same night I noticed some of the skunks were missing. I found two on the road and a total of nine missing.

The company that supplies these cards was horrified and said this was the first time this had happened.

We have children on our street (some teenagers) who go out Saturday

evenings. I would like for parents to look around and if they see these skunks, which cost \$20 each, to kindly return them to my address (49 Hamilton Cres.) no questions asked.

It ruined the momentum of my birthday and makes me lose faith in the people in this area.

Donna Clow, Georgetown

### TOWN OF HALTON HILLS Working Together Working for You!

#### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Fire Protection & Prevention Services for the Town of Halton Hills has an immediate opening for a full-time

#### CHIEF OFFICER, FIRE PREVENTION & EDUCATION

##### Primary Functions:

- Perform the role of Director (Fire Chief) and/or Duty Officer, as required
- Provide administrative, strategic planning, and technical advice to the Director of fire prevention and operational matters, as required and formulate operational budgets, departmental policies, procedural guidelines, by-laws and/or other enacting regulations
- Make recommendation to the Director, CAO and Council about matters respecting customer interactions, potential liabilities, efficiencies and other matters of corporate interest
- Prepare Reports to Council and attend Department Head and Council meetings, as required
- Act as spokesperson and provide direction to senior officers, municipal and provincial officials during emergency fire incidents and other threats to the Town's business continuity
- Prepare, plan, develop and recommend strategic emergency planning and operational contingencies in harmony with municipal, regional, and provincial legislation in partnership with authorities having jurisdiction
- Provide municipal representation and effectively contribute as a chair, director or associate of associations or committees pertaining to emergency planning, fire prevention, mutual aid, fire and life safety education and/or other interest of municipal importance
- Supervise and manage a division of full-time fire safety specialists and technicians in the prompt execution and delivery of education, inspection and rapid intervention response programs
- Develop, implement and evaluate fire prevention inspection, fire cause determination and public fire and life safety campaigns while establishing and promoting effective public relations for the department
- Recruit full-time fire safety specialists and fire safety technicians and assume the administration of personnel processes including performance appraisals, vacation scheduling, work plans, performance objectives and progressive disciplines in concert with applicable collective agreements, negotiation processes, labour and health & safety legislation, etc.,
- Act as Management Co-chair of the Joint Health & Safety Committee

- Supervise a division of part-time suppression members in emergency operations, as required
- Perform other related work, as required

##### Qualifications

- Extensive knowledge of Service rules, relations, policies, procedures and applicable Municipal and Provincial Codes, Acts and By-laws
- Thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of effective supervision, training and discipline of personnel and proven leadership skills
- Advanced written and verbal skills
- Sound knowledge of fire-ground tactics and procedures, emergency management, program delivery, labour relations, health and safety, apparatus and equipment operations
- Ability to maintain high levels of confidentiality, provide effective representation and continually learn and adapt in an increasingly challenging and evolving environments
- Extensive knowledge and experience dealing with composite fire service staff
- Must possess a degree in the fields of municipal administration, emergency service management, labour relations, fire protection technology, public education and media relations or the equivalent education and experience
- Formal training at an accredited training institution/facility in specialized services such as hazardous materials, emergency patient care, and ice/water rescue
- Extensive supervisory experience at a progressively responsible level within the fire service
- Ability to competently utilize computer software as necessary, including word processing, spread sheet and accounting, as well as, presentation software

##### Salary Range

The salary range for this full-time position is \$67,084 to \$79,682 per annum.

Interested applicants should submit a resumé with references, together with a letter of application, to be received no later than **Thursday, November 27, 2003 at 4:30 p.m.** local time.

Please direct applications to:  
Ms. Jackie Bowles,  
Manager of Human Resources  
Town of Halton Hills  
1 Halton Hills Drive  
Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2  
Fax: (905) 873-1431

Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001 (S.O. 2001, c.25) and will be used to select a candidate. Questions regarding this collection should be directed to the Manager of Human Resources.

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