

Meeting the needs of Halton's youths

Youth in Halton face many of the same issues as other people in our community, including the need for housing, transportation and recreational services, yet their needs are sometimes overlooked.

In response to meeting these needs, the Halton Youth Advisory Committee developed the Truth About Youth: Making Services Better for Young People in Halton plan, which was endorsed by regional council in 2003. The plan's recommendations addressed issues important to Halton's youth, including the need for multi-purpose resource centres, appropriate and accessible housing, support for parents, recognition of diversity and enhanced police-youth relations. Youth, community agencies and parents interested in youth, formed six working groups to work on the recommendations from the plan and received \$60,000 from regional council to kick-start their programs.

The first year of the plan has passed, and the region wants to assess how far we've come and how far we need to go. Halton Region is hosting a community forum on youth and bringing the working groups and the community together to report on the progress of the recommendations and determine next steps.

One of the items of discussion will be the approval of Halton's 2004-2006 Strategic Plan. The plan supports the recommendation that all communities in Halton should have a multi-purpose

resource centre where youth from any community could drop in. There would be information on employment programs and on emergency shelter, food vouchers, recreational programming and various community services. The plan demonstrates Halton Region's commitment to respond to the needs of youth.

The forum will be held on Thursday, Oct. 7, from 4-8 p.m. at regional headquarters, 1151 Bronte Road in Oakville. There will be a graphic facilitator who will map out our journey since the launch of the plan in June 2003. Graphic facilitation is an innovative approach that will pictorially illustrate the community's strengths and assets, as well as new opportunities and challenges.

For more information on the forum, please contact us at 905-825-6000, ext. 7032 or visit our Web site at www.region.halton.on.ca/tay

—Joyce Savoline is the chair of Halton Region

THE REGION REPORT



Joyce Savoline

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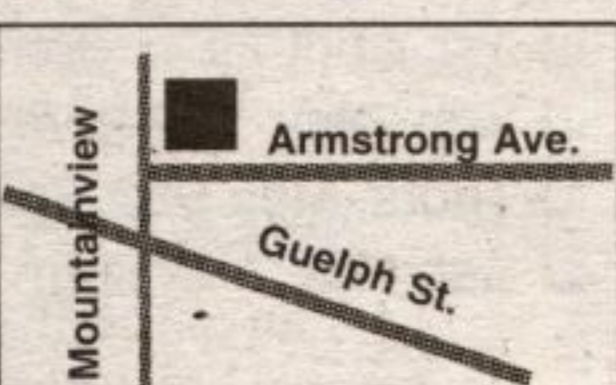
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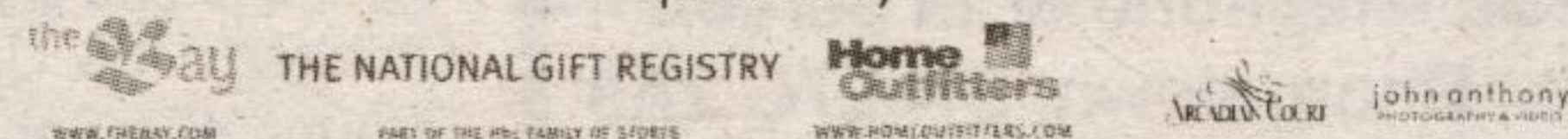


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