

Back to school is scary for some adults

The kids are excited as they head back to school this week. New clothes, new school supplies, new friends and teachers. Our children look forward to a new year filled with promise and opportunity. We look forward to getting back on a schedule and a return to normal. We also look forward to watching our children learn and grow.

However, not all parents and children look toward the new school term with such anticipation. Parents with low literacy skills are getting nervous about the new school year. It means a lot of paper coming home in backpacks; it means filling out forms; it means homework.

For many adults, their children trekking off to schools in Halton Hills for another year can be frightening. Some parents find it difficult to understand the stack of paper they are expected to read and are daunted by the amount of form filling and the frequent need to assist children with homework.

In Halton Hills alone, 8,267 adults are without a high school diploma—1,872 people in Halton Hills have less than Grade 9 education.

Parents are expected to be involved with their children's education. Financially-strapped school boards depend on parents to ensure their children's learning is supported at home. A child struggling at school, whose parents are unable to help with homework, is destined to perpetuate a low literacy cycle. Children from families with low literacy levels are rarely read to and begin school without the fundamental language skills to be successful students.

Parents who come to Literacy North Halton say reading to their children and helping their children with homework are primary goals.

Literacy North Halton provides programming for adults in the community who wish to upgrade their reading, writing, basic math and computer skills. A parent who wants to help their child can learn how to talk to teachers,

Literacy Matters



905-873-2200

write notes to the school, and understand report cards. While they improve the skills needed to help their children, they are also making themselves more employable, creating opportunities for fulfilling employment and further training, and building up their self-esteem.

If you want to help your child, but need a little help, call Literacy North Halton 905-873-2200.

Upcoming events

Saturday Sept. 25: Garden Harmony, Garden Concert and Art Show, Old Seed House Gardens (Gazebo), Maple Ave./Guelph St, Georgetown, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Garden Harmony is a day dedicated to highlighting local artists and raising awareness and funds for Halton Hills' adult literacy program. An afternoon of music is planned featuring the following: Bach Chorale; Georgetown Children's Chorus; Globe Theatre — performing a scene from its new musical; Casey Highland Dancers; Brampton Folk Club; and Casey Manierka-Quaile, the CNE Idol runner-up.

Thursday Nov. 4: *That Summer*, a drama by David French, John Elliott Theatre, Georgetown, 7 p.m. (call theatre box office for tickets, 905-877-3700). Georgetown Little Theatre and Literacy North Halton present this benefit night. All proceeds from this beautiful touching drama go toward supporting Literacy North Halton's Read*Spell*Write Program.

Literacy Matters is prepared by staff at Literacy North Halton. For more information about adult literacy in Halton Hills call 905-873-2200 or refer to www.literacynh.org.

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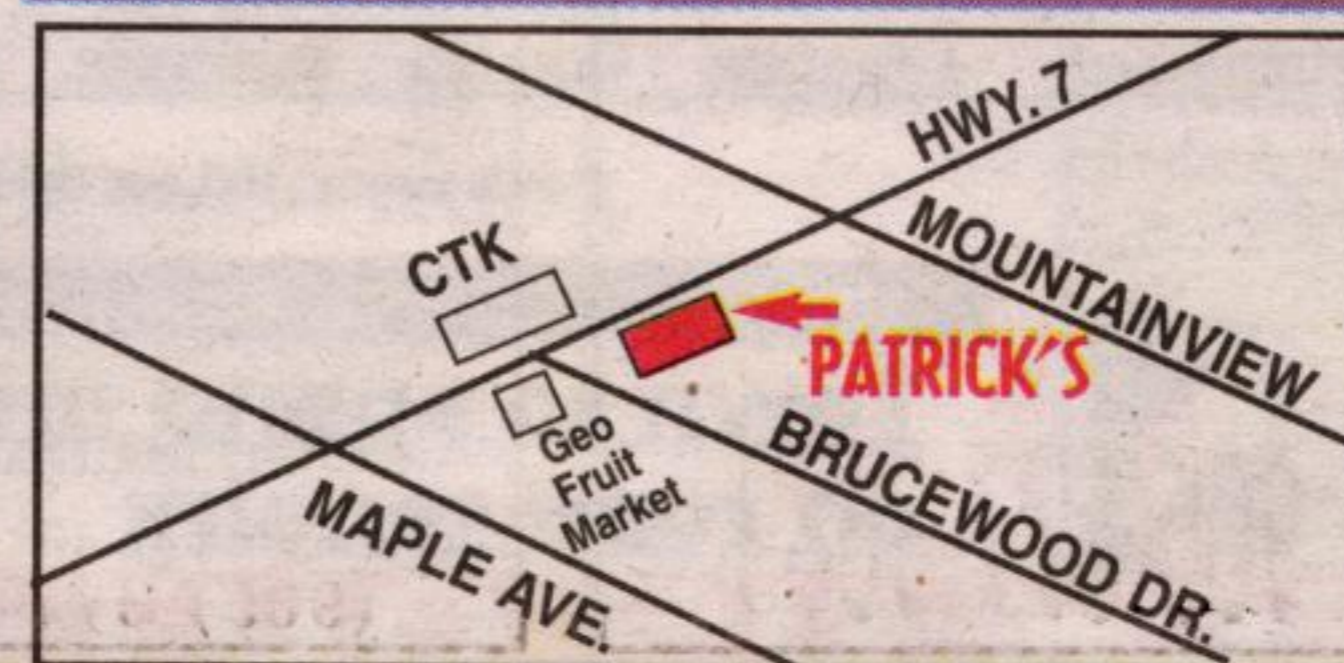


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