

Report says 20 per cent of Halton parents smoke around their kids

Despite the numerous health warnings and smoking bans, 20 per cent of Halton parents are still exposing children to cigarette smoke in their homes.

This is one of the findings of a recent study conducted by the 'Our Kids - The Early Years' coalition, a group of various organizations looking to determine the needs of Halton children.

The coalition recently presented a report card on the challenges Halton children are faced with while in the early development stage (prenatal to age six) to the Region's health and social services committee.

Other alarming numbers include 14 per cent of five-year-old children in the region are considered obese, about eight per cent of families are living in poverty, 50 per cent of parents don't always put their toddlers in booster seats and almost 20 per cent of Halton's kids have chronic health conditions like asthma and bronchitis.

The report broke down Halton into 21 neighbourhoods and divided risks into seven categories-developmental concerns (per cent of children) developmental concerns (number of children), child health, child safety, parent/caregiver support, economic security and social risk indicators.

The neighbourhood listed as high risk in the most categories in Halton

was River Oaks in Oakville. This area was noted to have developmental concerns (number), health, safety, parent caregiver support and social risk indicators.

"I'm just so alarmed and shocked by the situation," said Oakville and Regional Councillor Jeff Knoll, whose ward is River Oaks. "There are some really worrisome facts in here. You scared me, but thank you for this (document)."

"The message to your community is that we would want to get your neighbourhood together and work with them. There's obviously some support needed," Region Director of Children's Services Mary Beth Jonz told Knoll.

Acton also met criteria to be ranked as high risk in four categories as did Aldershot in Burlington and South Central Oakville.

The goal of creating the report card was to provide a clear picture on the vulnerabilities and strengths in the region's kids and find out where changes need to be made in services like child care and public health.

Our Kids - The Early Years is working in collaboration with Our Kids - The School Years, which has a similar goal of improving access to services for local families and increasing neighbourhood community involvement.

—By Melanie Hennessey, special

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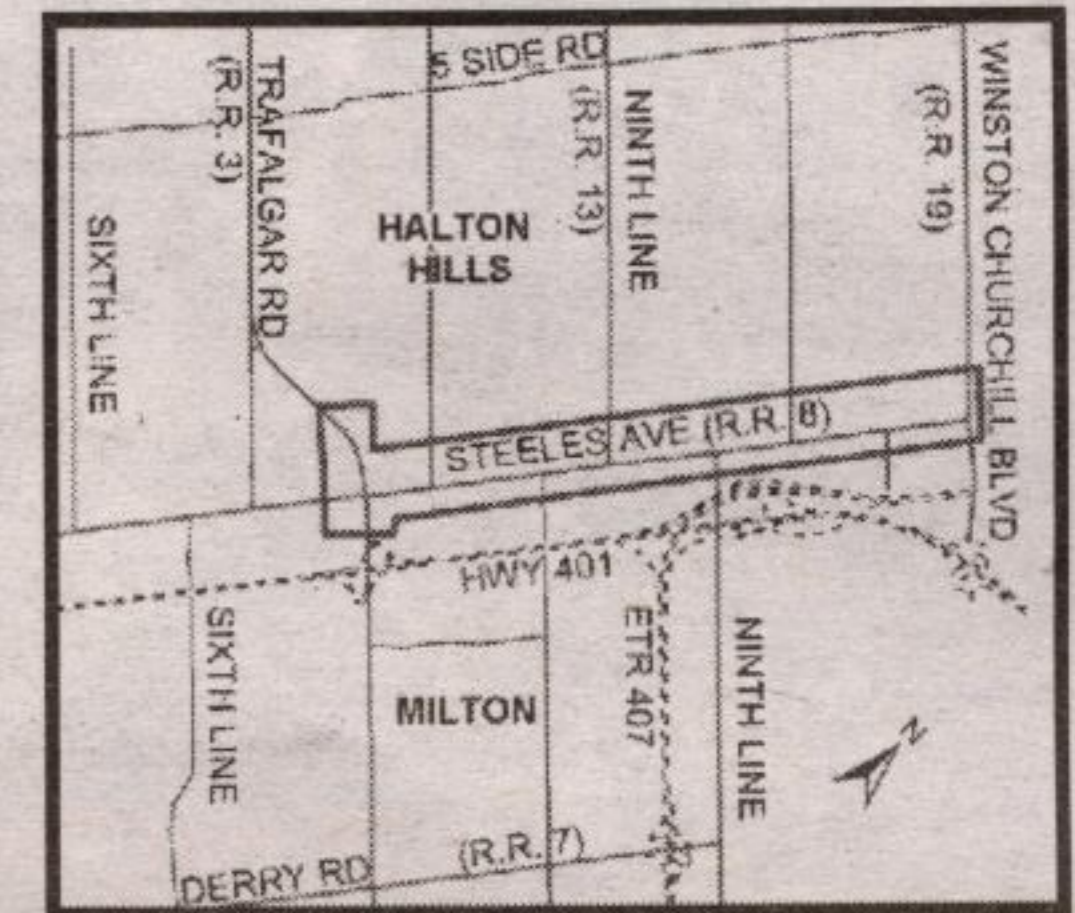
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NOTICE OF STUDY COMPLETION

Steeles Avenue (Regional Road 8) Improvements Town of Halton Hills Class Environmental Assessment Study

The Regional Municipality of Halton has undertaken a Class Environmental Assessment to consider a wide range of options to satisfy future travel demands on Steeles Avenue (Regional Road 8), from Trafalgar Road (Regional Road 3) easterly to Winston Churchill Boulevard (Regional Road 19), in the Town of Halton Hills. A number of road improvement alternatives were examined as part of the study including widening the road, new road alignments, and improvements to driveways and intersections, among other alternatives.



The study was completed in compliance with Schedule C of the Municipal Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (June 2000). The Environmental Study Report (ESR) was prepared to document the planning and decision making processes that were followed. As documented therein, the Preliminary Preferred Design includes the widening of Steeles Avenue (Regional Road 8) from two to four lanes, introduction of a centre turn lane and medians along various sections of the roadway.

By this Notice, the ESR is being placed on public record for a 30-day review period in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Class EA. Subject to comments received as a result of this Notice and the receipt of necessary approvals, the Region intends to proceed with the detailed design and construction of Steeles Avenue (Regional Road 8) between Trafalgar Road (Regional Road 3) and Winston Churchill Boulevard (Regional Road 19).

The Environmental Study Report is available for review at the following locations:

Clerk's Department
Regional Municipality of Halton
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, ON, L6M 3L1
Tel: 905-825-6000
Mon-Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Clerk's Department
Town of Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive
Halton Hills, ON, L7G 5G2
905-873-2601
Mon-Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Further information may be obtained from Matt Krusto, Project Manager, Halton Region, 905-825-6000, ext. 7225. Please provide written comment to the Region by November 15th, 2004 (30 calendar days from the date of this notice). If concerns regarding this project cannot be resolved in discussion with the Region, a person or party may request that the Minister of Environment make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (referred to as a Part II Order). Requests for a Part II Order must be received by the Minister at the address below by November 15, 2004. A copy of the request must also be sent to the Region's Project Manager at the address listed above. If no request is received by November 15, 2004, the Region intends to proceed with detailed design and construction.

Minister of Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 12th Floor,
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5

This notice issued October 15th, 2004
www.region.halton.on.ca/ppw/planningroads

1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
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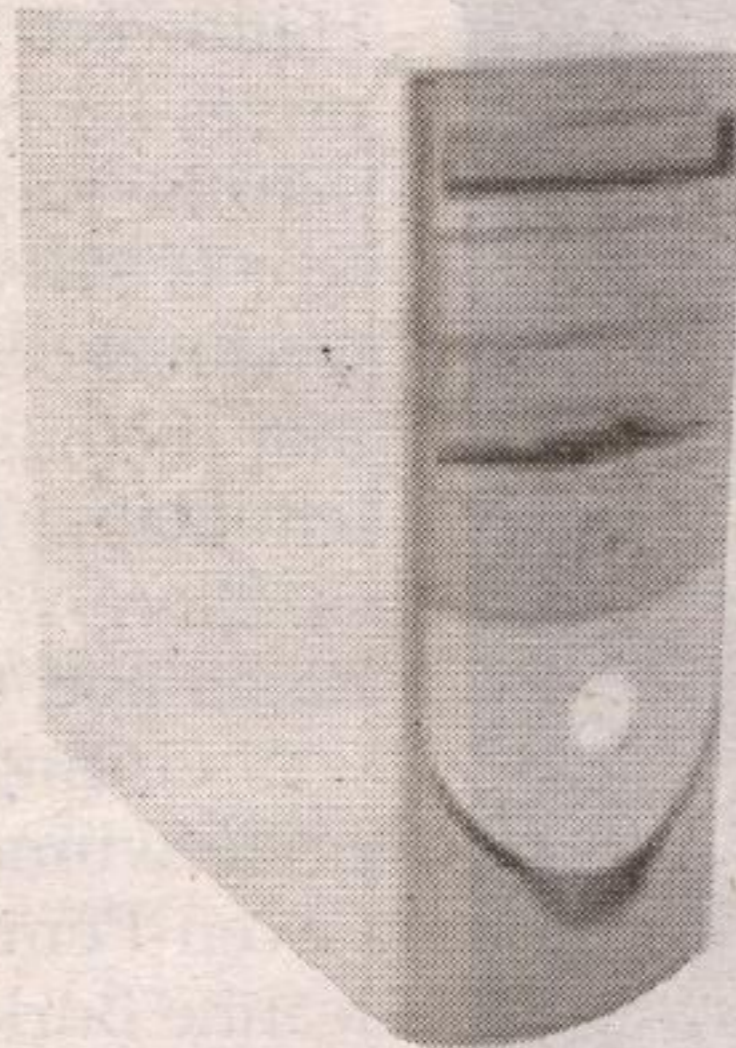
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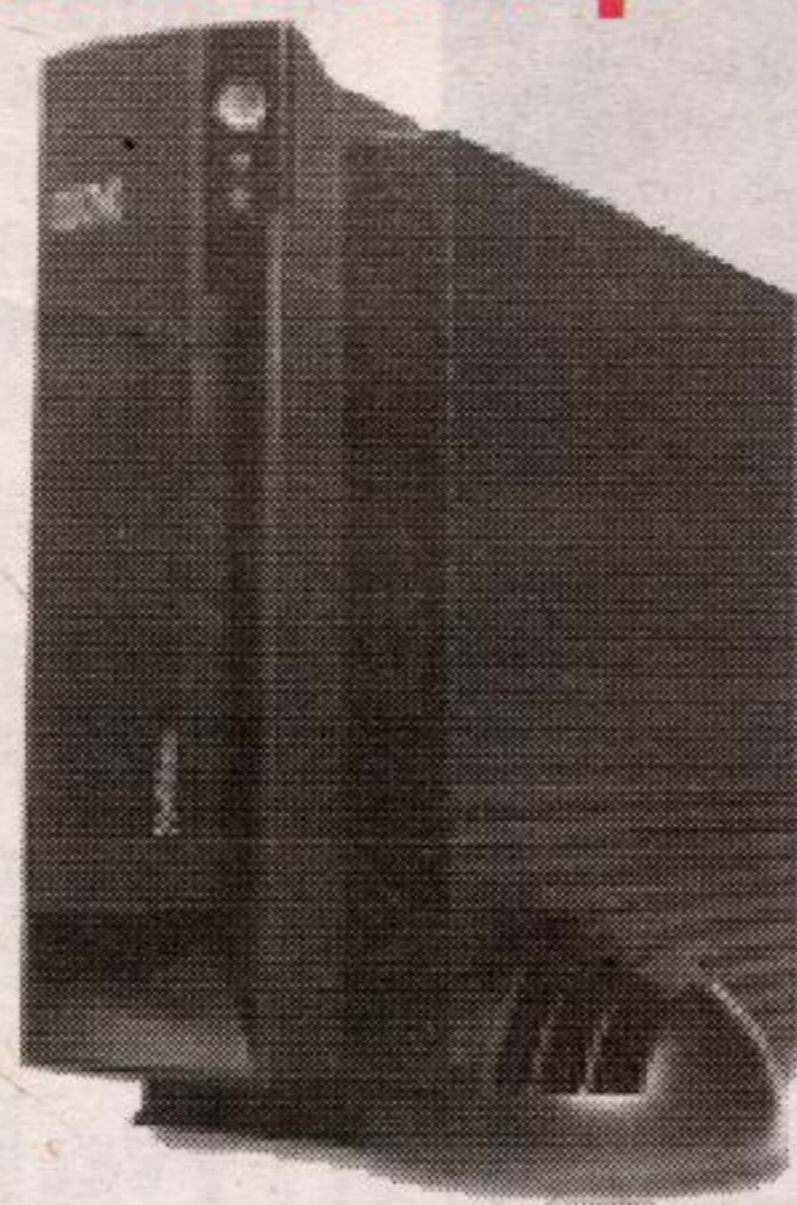


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