

Adopt A Boulevard plan gets council OK

Calling them canvases waiting to be painted, a Halton Hills-based citizens' group heralded Halton Hills council's approval of an Adopt A Boulevard program.

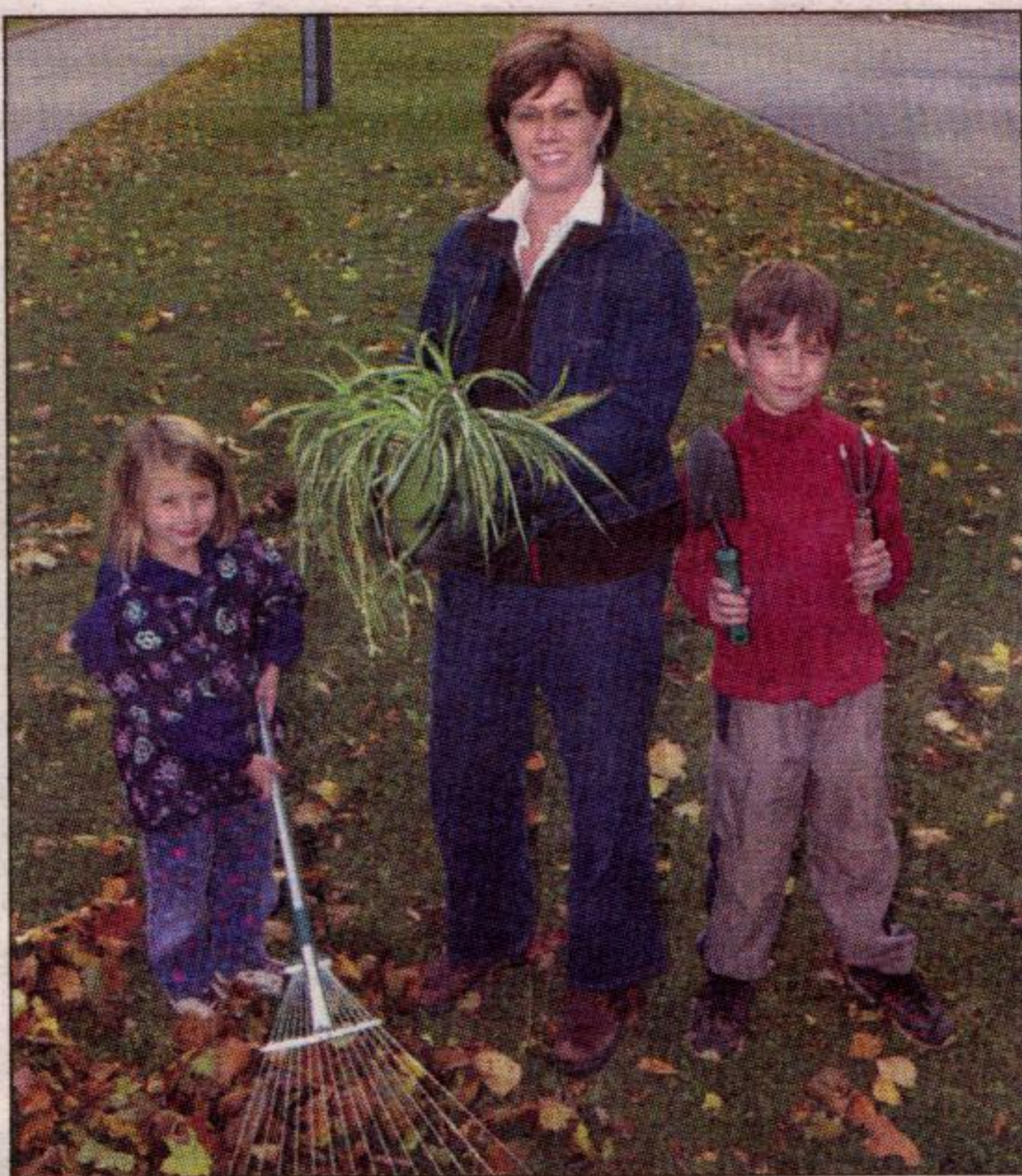
HOPE (Healthy Options for People and the Environment) plans to work with town staff to "adopt" the first Sargent Rd. boulevard block, from Mountainview Rd. The group hopes to enlist the volunteer support of Sargent Rd. residents, including seniors in the Sargent Rd. Apartments.

HOPE member Christine Upton said the program would bring town, businesses and residents together in a collaborative project. It will help "people reconnect with nature through gardening, demonstrating that we can beautify our neighbourhoods and also give something back to the environment which in turn gives us peace of mind."

More importantly, said Upton, it will educate the public by showcasing a variety of native perennials resistant to pests, ground covers and shrubs, rather than a "monoculture of grass always needing to be mowed and protected from weeds."

Town staff would remove the grass, supply the topsoil and install the recognition signs. The adopter (HOPE for instance) would be responsible for spreading the topsoil, preparing the planting bed, purchasing the plants, weeding and maintenance and communicating with the area residents. Design of the boulevard would be subject to town approval with regard to sightlines and other safety concerns.

HOPE has enlisted the help of master gardeners Belinda Gallagher and Diana Pooke to assist with the design. The group also plans to document the project to be used on the Town's website as an educational tool for



Christine Upton and her children Catherine and Andrew are ready to begin work on a Sargent Rd. boulevard after town council approved an Adopt A Boulevard program.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

other volunteer groups who may want to adopt a boulevard in the future.

Other boulevards in town that are suitable locations to adopt include the boulevard island on Normandy Blvd. and the north side of Sinclair Rd., between Mountainview Rd. and Calvert Dr. Only one boulevard will be adopted each year.

The policy, which must be ratified at the Nov. 8 council meeting, is also contingent on council approval of a 2005 base budget request of \$500 in annual operating costs—equivalent to one new boulevard adoption a year.

TEAC (Town Environmental Advisory Committee) has agreed to pay for the \$500 this year to allow HOPE to begin work on the Sargent Rd. boulevard, with planting planned for spring 2005.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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Maxell 50-Spindle 48x CD-R 10051625 Jewel cases are not included with this product as incorrectly advertised on pg. 4 of our October 29th "Hot Door Crashers" flyer.

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Shrek 2 DVD M2073909 On pages 14-19 of our November 5th flyer, the disclaimer for this product incorrectly states that Shrek 2 will be available on VHS. It is available on DVD only.

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