

# United Way of Halton Hills starts its 2005-2006 campaign

## Sets \$300,000 goal

The United Way of Halton Hills officially kicked off its 2005-2006 campaign on the weekend, and once again the goal has been set at \$300,000.

Despite the fact that the United Way has not achieved its goal for the past three years, campaign organizers are optimistic that this year will be different, and the target will be met.

"We have the right combination of volunteers who are passionate about making a difference in our community who will be reaching out to our caring community," said United Way president of the board of directors Rosslyn Dowell.

Dowell said she believes the United Way's campaign committee chaired by Norm Paget and Jonathon Fischer (honorary chairperson) will help to raise the profile of the organization in the business community.

Fischer said throughout the campaign they hope to communicate the message that Halton Hills United Way "truly is a community based organization."

"If you give in Halton Hills it will directly benefit the people of Halton Hills," said Fischer. He added that area residents who give at their workplace outside of Halton Hills have to designate their donation to the United Way of Halton Hills, because, if for example, they give to the Toronto organization, it doesn't help the people in the Halton Hills community.

United Way executive director Kim Robinson stressed that those who work out of town have to "make a conscious effort" to designate their donation to Halton Hills.

"If people would make the effort to designate to us that would be very helpful," she said.

Robinson said area residents can expect to receive their United Way direct mail pack-

age next month. Included will be a story about a local family helped by the United Way and an addressed return envelope.

Donation dollars go a long way at the United Way.

- A donation of less than \$20 a week, or \$1,000 a year will provide two weeks of support for three homeless families living in transitional housing apartments in town.

- \$10 a week or \$520 a year will help a family in crisis or help an abused woman and her children.

- \$5 a week or \$260 a year will pay for two children with developmental disabilities to attend a Saturday program for six weeks.

- \$3 a week or \$156 a year will sponsor three underprivileged teens to attend four special group recreational activities

- \$1 a week or \$52 a year will provide two hours of home care to a senior citizen or person with a disability.

Robinson stressed that the United Way supports 15 different agencies including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton, Community Living North Halton, Distress Centre North Halton, Halton Family Services, Literacy North Halton and Halton Hills Community Support and Information.

"One in three people will seek the services provided by one of our funded agencies in the next year," said Robinson.

The United Way is holding fundraising events throughout the campaign including its Presidents Ball, Dinner, Dance and Silent Auction at North Halton Golf Club Saturday (Sept. 17). Cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m. Some tickets are still available for \$70 each. Anyone interested in attending should call the United Way office at 905-877-3066.

The Holiday House Tour featuring six homes decorated by local professionals for Christmas in Halton Hills will be held



Reid Stitt, 8, and his brother Fraser Stitt, 6, of Glen Williams are served their lunch at the annual United Way barbecue by volunteers (from left) Rosslyn Dowell, president of the board of directors, Norm Paget, 2005 campaign chairman and Jonathon Fischer, honorary campaign chairman. The next big fund-raiser for the United Way is the President's Ball at North Halton Golf and Country Club, this Saturday night. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by fine dining, music, dancing, and a silent auction. Limited tickets are available at \$70 each by contacting the United Way at 905-877-3066 or at [unitedwayhh@bellnet.ca](mailto:unitedwayhh@bellnet.ca). Funds raised from this event will help the United Way of Halton Hills to continue to support 15 local agencies. All of the money raised by the United Way of Halton Hills stays in Halton Hills (to support our community).

Photo by Yves Desjardins

Saturday November, 26. Tickets are \$20. For tickets and info call the United Way office.

Volunteers are also needed by the United Way to help in a variety of areas ranging from stuffing campaign envelopes or serving as a board member.

"It's a great place for people who need to do their community service hours," said

Dowell.

For more information on the United Way or to make an online donation visit [www.haltonhills.unitedway.ca](http://www.haltonhills.unitedway.ca), or mail the donation to United Way of Halton Hills, 115 Main Street South, P.O. Box 286 Halton Hills (Georgetown), ON, L7G 4Y5.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

## Teen says she's outraged by police action

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"I think the biggest problem is you get certain individuals who just want to cause problems," said Welsh. He added that the number of charges laid is not surprising for an event like the fair.

Kristyn Rolanty, 17 of Georgetown was at the fair Friday night and said she was "outraged by the disregard our police officers had" for citizens' safety and well being at the incident.

She said while she understands police have to stop those causing a disturbance at all costs, their handling of the situation in which 60 to 70 innocent people were attacked by officers wielding pepper spray was completely unnecessary and was an "act of severe police brutality."

"It was not an act of rebellion by teens against the cops. It was a few foolish kids trying to get a laugh, and the police taking it way too far."

She said she was waiting in a crowd for a ride home when she saw four police officers restrain two drunken teens.

She said a crowd formed, and another officer stepped forward to break it up.

"While mostly everyone obeyed, two teens decided to entertain the group by dancing around the officer. What

started as something with the intention of being funny, resulted in chaos and terrorization," said the youth.

She said since most people were waiting for a ride home, many people stayed where they were when police told everyone to get back and go home.

She said before she realized what happened her lungs and eyes were burning, and she began coughing. She said 15 police officers were blockading the other end of the street, holding out their cans of pepper spray.

She said the officers were "showering pepper spray aimlessly and carelessly at the crowd before them," and 60 to 70 teens were "being trapped and abused by those who were there to protect us from harm."

"It sounds like she was in the wrong place at the wrong time," said Welsh, who added he had no concerns at all with the way Halton officers handled the situation.

"If you don't want to be part of it, you should get out of there as quickly as possible," he said.

He added that the use of pepper spray is far better than having someone get into a physical altercation with an officer and possibly suffer injuries.

Welsh said anyone who feels they were treated inappropriately by police can file a complaint at the police station.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

## Fair president praises police Fall fair draws good crowd

Although attendance was down slightly from the previous year, an organizer of the Georgetown Fall Fair is calling the event a success.

"It was a good fair, it was a friendly fair," said Georgetown Agricultural Society president John Nurse. "We had really beautiful weather and a good crowd."

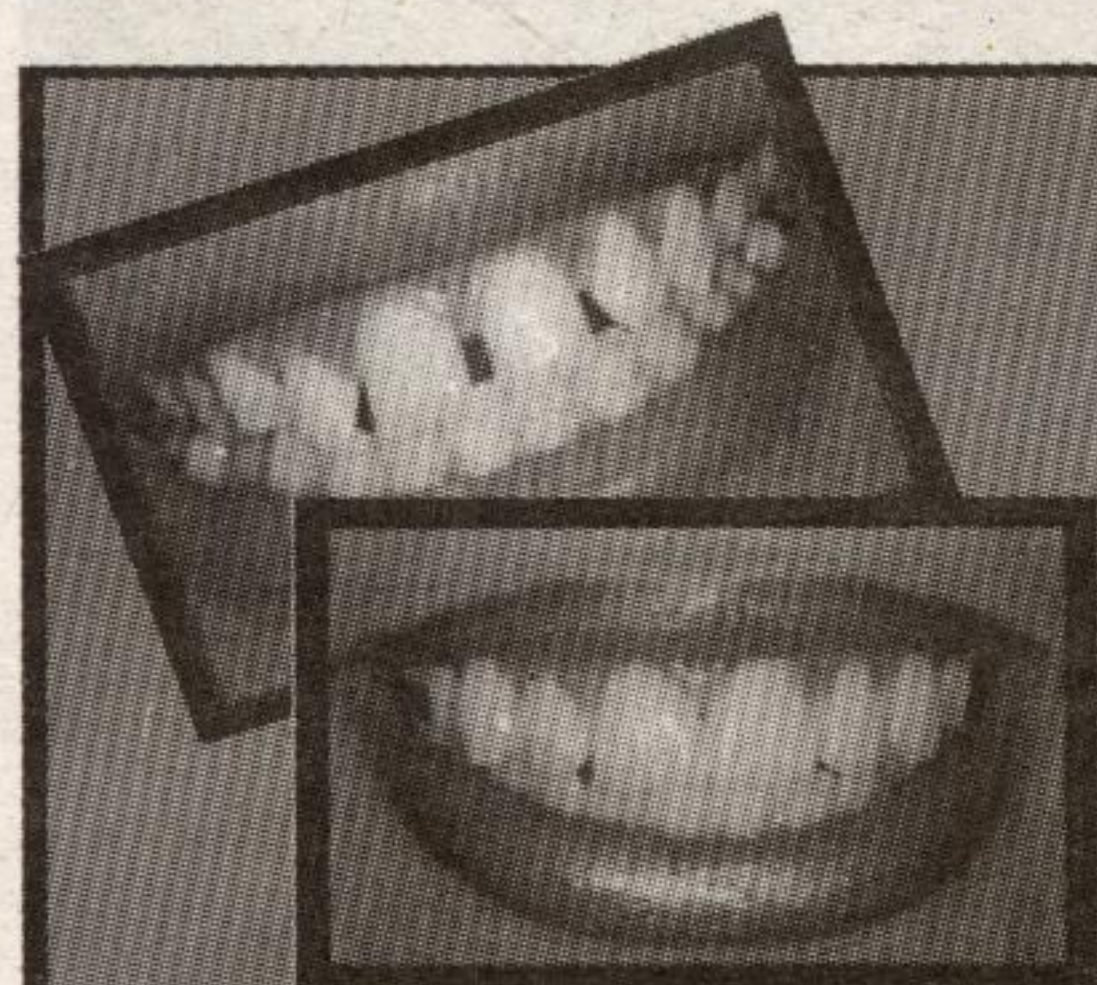
At press time Nurse didn't have attendance figures, but said the number of fairgoers was down Friday and Saturday from the 2004 fair, but was up on Sunday.

"All in all, we're very satisfied," said Nurse.

Nurse said "without a doubt" the demolition derby on Saturday night was the most popular event at the fair. The Agricultural Awareness Tent was another big crowd-pleaser he said.

"We feel it's important to bring the country to the town," he said. He said there was extra security at the fair this year as there was a rumour circulating there might be trouble.

"Police were taking no chances," said Nurse, who praised the officers for doing a "fine job."



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