

TEACH YOUR FAMILY FIRE SAFETY



With this week being Fire Prevention Week, Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services' fire safety specialist Dave Ford illustrates the safe use of candles. Fire department officials have set up displays in the Georgetown Market Place and at other locations around town to drive home the importance of the proper use of candles as well as other fire prevention safety tips.

CANDLE FIRE SAFETY

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a growing cause of home fires – and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, meaning that it can easily ignite any combustible material nearby. And because candle fires spread so quickly, it is essential that you have working smoke alarms in your home and a home escape plan.

- Never leave burning candles unattended. Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Almost half of all home fires started by candles begin in the bedroom.
- Keep candles away from anything that can burn such as curtains, blinds, clothing.
- Don't place lit candles in windows or near doorways where drafts could bring materials in contact with the flame.
- Use candle holders with a flat, sturdy base that won't tip over easily.
- Place the candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface free of papers and other materials that easily ignite.
- Don't place candles close to the edge of tables where they can be accidentally knocked over by kids or pets.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing/sleeves away from the flame.
- Keep a constant watch on children near birthday cakes with lit candles.
- Do not let the kids hold or light candles even under supervision.
- Be careful of hot, dripping wax – it can cause serious skin burns.
- Store matches or lighters out of sight and out of reach of children.
- Extinguish candles carefully with a candle snuffer or soft, directed breath.
- Use a flashlight instead of candles during a power failure.
- Use the "float on water" style of candle.
- We discourage the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

REMEMBER: SMOKE ALARMS SAVES LIVES

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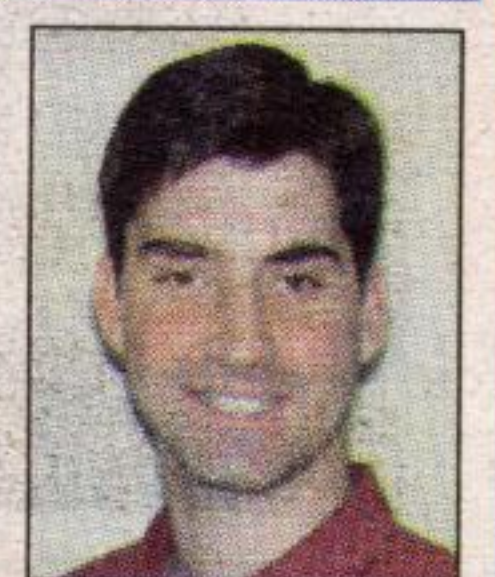
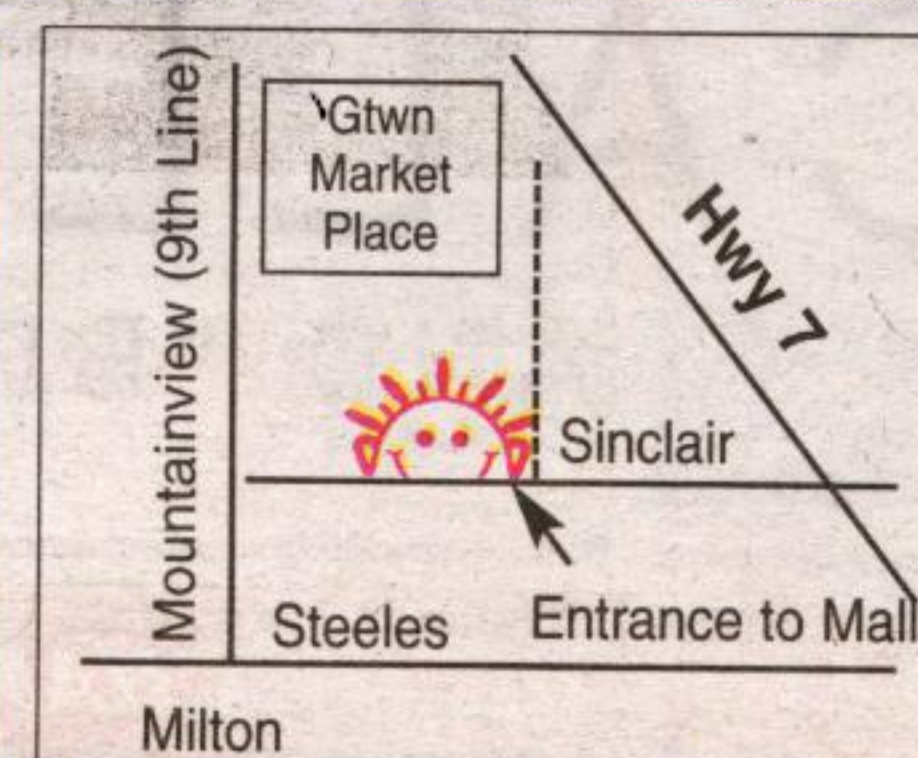
Yvonne Oliveira
M.Cl.Sc.SLP(C), Aud.
Reg. CASLPO
Audiologist

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