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Region makes push to have restaurants post inspection reports

Regional staff has been given the go-ahead to prepare a bylaw that will make it mandatory for all Halton restaurants to have their health department inspection reports available for the public to see.

At its meeting Wednesday, regional council directed staff to prepare the bylaw that will make 'Dinewise'—Halton's current program where restaurants voluntarily disclose the results of their inspection reports—compulsory for local food establishments.

Once the bylaw is finalized, it'll have to go back before Halton council for approval. It's proposed to become effective July 1, 2006.

In the meantime, staff will be developing a Dinewise bylaw implementation strategy by December 31, which will include a potential six-month phase-in peri-

od when warning notices would be issued to restaurants not complying with the new rules.

An evaluation strategy is also going to be created to determine whether the bylaw should be expanded to include all food premises in Halton, like food retailers and processors. Staff is expected to report back to council down the road with recommendations on whether this should happen.

Dinewise began in 2003 and now has about 550 voluntary participants. Those taking part post a certificate of inspection in a highly visible location in their restaurant, and customers can then ask to see the latest inspections reports.

A list of the restaurants is available at www.region.halton.on.ca/health.

—By Melanie Hennessey, special

Police seek pantless man after teenager approached

Halton Regional Police are looking for a suspicious man who was seen driving in Georgetown Tuesday without any pants on.

Police report at 10:30 a.m. a male in a black Grand Am pulled his vehicle alongside an 18-year-old girl walking along Guelph St. toward Georgetown District High School.

The man rolled down the driver's window and asked the girl directions to the high school. The girl noticed he was not wearing any pants or underwear.

Police believe the same man was seen at approximately 11:05 a.m. that day at Wal-Mart in Milton. A female in the restaurant there looked out the window and saw a man in a car, without pants on, masturbating.

The man is described as white, 30 to 40, with dark brown hair. He was wearing a dark-coloured shirt.

The vehicle is described as a 1999-2000 black Grand Am.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 905-878-5511 ext. 2105 or 2415.



Cell mates

Halton Regional Police Constable Laurel Barnett gave a whole new meaning to young offenders as she escorted (from left) Rachel Ironside, 3, Victoria Berndt, 5, and Rebecca Berndt, 4, into one of the holding cells at 11 Division police station on Guelph Street last week. The kids took part in a tour of the police station to see a few behind the scenes aspects of the Halton Regional Police Service. Photo by Ted Brown

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