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14 Acton/Georgetown, Friday, November 18, 2005

CH has new strategic plan

A strong emphasis on community feedback was the key to the success of Conservation Halton's new Strategic Conservation Plan, said the agency's chief administrative officer.

"It went extremely well," said Conservation Halton (CH) CAO and secretary/treasurer Theresa Maguire Garber of the community consultation process the plan underwent before being finalized.

The plan, entitled 'Toward a Healthy Watershed' was recently approved by the agency's board of directors. The document is a combination of CH's long-term strategic directions and current priorities.

It was created in 2002 and was updated to guide CH's conservation efforts up to the end of 2007.

An open house was held in April to get public feedback on the future revised strategic plan.

Comments and ideas collected from the session were then incorporated into a draft plan, which was distributed to CH's stakeholders—including the Region of Halton—for comments, Maguire-Garber said.

There was also an on-line survey through which feedback could be made on the draft plan. The final plan incorporated much of this feedback.

One of the largest changes made in this strategic plan is the introduction of a source water protection plan, something sparked by the tainted water tragedy in Walkerton.

"We had watershed plans (included) before, but there was no tie between surface water and ground water," Maguire-Garber said, explaining the source water protection plan goes one step further.

The plan will be presented to CH's supporting municipalities in January or February, along with two other documents—a report card on how CH did implementing the last strategic plan and its Public Accountability Statement, which is new.

—By Stephanie Thiessen, special

The Canadian Ballet Youth Ensemble presents...
The Nutcracker Festival

Nutcracker Nation

Winner of Society of Dance History Scholars Award 2005

Friday, November 25, 2005 - 7:00pm
City Hall of Hamilton

Admission FREE

Talk panel discussion and book signing by **Jennifer Fisher**

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November 29, 2005 - 7:00pm
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Canadian Fashion Designer as a Visual Artist

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Hamilton Convention Centre

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The Nutcracker Ballet

with Ballet Ovest de Montréal & the Canadian Ballet Youth Ensemble.

Saturday, December 10, 2005
Brunch 10:30am - Ballet 2:00pm
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Children - \$50 per ticket

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