

THE INDEPENDENT



Town of Halton Hills race was simply amazing

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Home and Energy special section

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FRIDAY...

A Norval woman has found getting someone to fix her leaky roof is an exercise in frustration. For details see Friday's edition.

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Georgetown's newest homeowner, Crystal Orvis, waves from the porch of her new home on Dayfoot Drive, along with her children Justin and Amanda Lockhart, during Habitat for Humanity Halton's official dedication of the house on Sunday. Habitat for Humanity's mission is to mobilize volunteers and communities to provide affordable housing for less fortunate families. Photo by Shawn McAlpine

Home sweet (Habitat) home

LISA TALLYN Staff Writer

Crystal Orvis had always dreamed of owning her own home, but she didn't think it would ever be possible.

That dream became a reality for the single mom this past weekend when she and her twin eight-year-old children Justin and Amanda received the keys to their new 1,000 sq. ft. bungalow thanks to Habitat for Humanity Halton. Orvis and her family and Habitat volunteers and sponsors were on hand at the home for a dedication ceremony Sunday.

"It's beautiful, really nice," said Orvis of her new home on Dayfoot Dr. She and her family are expected to move in early next month.

"Upon first hearing about Habitat for Humanity, a friend had urged us to try applying but we never thought in a million years we would be chosen as a partner family," said Orvis. "It's just not one of those things you count on or think that you would be lucky enough to be picked for."

Orvis and her children are one of Halton's working low-income families who otherwise would not be able to purchase their own home.

"This entire process with Habitat has been an adventure; one that we're thrilled to be on. To look forward to owning your own home and help in the process of building it has truly been a unique and exciting experience."

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Big pay hike in store for trustees

Halton Catholic District School Board trustees will be getting a raise after they voted at a special meeting last week in favour of recommendations provided by a Citizens' Advisory Committee that reviewed the issue.

In part, these recommendations include paying each trustee \$11,694, compared to the current \$5,000 annual flat rate across the province.

This decision, said Oakville Trustee David Goch—who believes trustees are underpaid in relation to other elected officials—would bring the stipend paid to them in line with Halton's public board.

The increase, added Oakville Trustee Alice Ann

LeMay, will also help attract "good people" to the board. Burlington Trustee Joanne Matters said that the increase speaks to "the importance of the trustee."

Halton Hills Trustee Irene McCauley, who did not attend the meeting due to medical reasons, phoned board chair Al Bailey to tell him her preference on the vote.

"I told him if the government gives us the money (to pay the extra salary) fine, but I didn't want to take it out of any school programs," she told *The Independent & Free Press* from her hospital bed.

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