

THE INDEPENDENT



Raiders take series command with wacky win in Burlington
Page 17

Wheels...your auto show guide
24 page section



50 cents (+GST) Vol. 129 No. 48 **Wednesday, February 14, 2007** 40 Pages Circulation 21,220 Voted Ontario's best newspaper

INSIDE



No stopping this Valentine's Day sweetheart

Page 3



Local curler gets taste of international play

Page 17

Editorial	6
Entertainment	11, 22
Sports	16 17, 19
Calendar	27
Classifieds	24-27

FRIDAY...

The Town's new transit co-ordinator wants seniors to get on the bus—the Activan bus. Find out why in Friday's *Independent & Free Press*.

For breaking news go to:
www.independentfreepress.com



Have a heart—with anchovies

Some people wear their heart of their sleeve, but Boston Pizza is putting their heart on a pizza pan in celebration of Valentine's Day, as Georgetown Boston Pizza community relations co-ordinator Rhiannon McKane (left) and server Meagan Sutor display one of the heart-shaped pizzas available tomorrow at the Guelph Street restaurant. In addition to serving up a pizza for your sweetie, one dollar from the sale of each heart-shaped pizza will be donated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The restaurant is also selling paper hearts for a dollar, with all proceeds also going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Photo by Ted Brown

Child care shortage is 'daunting'

STEPHANIE THIESSEN
Special to The IFP

Halton's exploding population has led to a dire need for child-care spots, with a shortage of almost 9,000 licensed spaces recently revealed.

"It's daunting," said Mary Beth Jonz, Halton's director of Children's Services.

This information arose from data collected for the Region's Integrated Early Learning and Child Care Plan. The plan was endorsed last week by the Region's health and social services committee after a presentation by Jonz.

The plan, which is completed every five years, also outlines a need for fee subsidies and integrated services for children with special needs.

There are currently 225 children with special needs in Halton who aren't receiving these services, Jonz told committee members.

Another issue outlined in the presentation is a shortage of funding to pay wage subsidies for early childhood educators.

All in all, the projected cost of meeting child care needs from 2007 to 2011 is \$94.5 million.

"It is a staggering amount," Jonz said.

Most of the information—including the need for more child-care spaces and an increase in wage subsidies and services—isn't a surprise, Jonz said.

What was surprising was the amount of growth that occurred since the last plan.

"We knew we had growth, but we didn't know how much growth there was through all of Halton, with Milton the highest," Jonz said.

From 2000 to last year, Milton had a 301 per cent increase in births, she said.

Fortunately, there are new child-care spaces being developed. Yesterday, a groundbreaking ceremony was to take place for the new Bruce Trail Early Learning and Child Care Centre in Milton.

Through the Best Start initiative, another 200 spaces will be created in Halton this year and next, Jonz said.

The message that needs to be communicated through the plan is that "with our growth, our funding can't keep up. We can't meet the needs," Jonz said.

See MORE, pg. 3

GEORGETOWN KIA
VOTED #1 FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE
2007 KIA SPECTRA **0% FINANCE**
CALL THE GEORGETOWN HEADQUARTERS 1-866-364-0697 or 905-877-7818

2007 CHEVROLET AVEO SEDAN
1.6 Litre DOHC, 5 Speed Transmission, AM/FM/CD/MPS, P185 14", Front & Rear Floor Mats. Stk #065260
\$12995* *yes* excludes frt. \$19700** *yes* per month No Money Down **46 MPG** per gallon
*Frt., admin., taxes & license fee extra ** Lease based upon 48 mo., 80,000 free km, frt., 1st, admin., taxes, lic. fee due on signing
GEORGETOWN CHEVROLET
33 MOUNTAINVIEW, GEORGETOWN (JUST NORTH OF HWY. #7 ON MOUNTAINVIEW) 905-877-6944

LIST WITH A PROVEN PERFORMER
•Same Great Community Website
•Brand New Technology

www.sandrabrianceau.com
Johnson Associates 905-877-5165
HALTON LTD., BROKERAGE