

# THE INDEPENDENT



Minor Atom AE Raiders claim OMHA championship

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Home, Lawn & Garden special section

8-pages

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Local residents to lend Haitians a healing hand

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## FRIDAY...

Look for results from Ontario Minor Hockey Association final playoff series action in Friday's *Independent & Free Press*.

For breaking news go to: [www.independentfreepress.com](http://www.independentfreepress.com)

# Bacteria levels 'unacceptable' in many wells



Bill Sanford of Limehouse has his water tested regularly, but with the newest suggestions of Halton Region Health Department, those with wells are being encouraged to test their water three times a year. Well water information sessions have been scheduled for April 18 at the Limehouse Memorial Hall and April 25 at the Nassagaweya Community Centre. Both sessions will run from 3:30 to 9 p.m.

Photo by Ted Brown

MELANIE HENNESSEY  
Special to The IFP

Almost 40 per cent of residential wells in Halton recently tested by the Region were found to have high levels of bacteria—a statistic that has regional councillors urging rural citizens to frequently sample their water supply.

The study results, which were presented to the Region's health and social services committee last week, revealed that of the 303 wells randomly tested throughout the area by the Halton Region Health Department in 2006, 37 per cent had unacceptable water quality in terms of bacteria.

And while Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal reported that the number is actually an improvement over the results from two studies in 2000 (45 per cent and 52 per cent with unacceptable water), he deemed the percentage to still be much too high.

"Those are terrible statistics," he noted.

The 2006 study also found that 54 per cent of residents who have wells never test their water for bacteria, while 13 per cent sample three times a year, another 13 per cent sample twice a year and 20 per cent sample once per year.

"Our recommended frequency is three times per year," said Halton Environmental Health Manager Tony Amalfa. "I think we still have some work to do in this area in terms of awareness of the public."

Halton Hills Councillor Clark Somerville suggested that the Region be a bit more proactive in its efforts to get residents to sample their water.

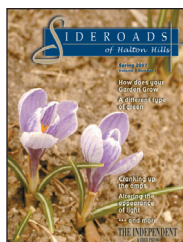
The councillors around the table then brainstormed a few ideas on how to get citizens to do that, such as by making the water testing bottles available in more locations or doing a bulk mailing of the testing bottles to those with wells.

See SURVEY, pg. 3

## Check out the spring issue of *Sideroads*

Delivered with today's edition of *The Independent & Free Press* you will find the spring 2007 copy of *Sideroads of Halton Hills*—our award-winning magazine focusing on rural life in and around Halton Hills.

This edition includes feature articles on the village of Glen Williams, local blues group—The Bluesers, spring gardening



tips, local stained glass artists and a unique recording studio.

We hope you enjoy this edition and, as always, like to hear your comments and suggestions. Simply send a letter to [jmcghie@independentfreepress.com](mailto:jmcghie@independentfreepress.com) or drop one by our Georgetown Market Place office.

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