

THE INDEPENDENT



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FRIDAY...

The annual Candlelight Tribute and Silent Walk to honour local war veterans will be held tomorrow (Thursday). See Friday's edition for full coverage.

For breaking news go to:
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It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it

Take one three-year-old, a shovel and *biiiiig* pile of dirt and you have instant fun. Tyler Reid, of Georgetown, was one of the hundreds of residents who turned up at the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre on Trafalgar Road Saturday to dig in to the free compost piles available. As part of Earth Week celebrations Halton Region offered free wood chips and compost to the public, 1,400 discounted trees, rain barrels, environmental displays and even a colouring contest for the young ones. For more see page 3.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

Future recreation plans unveiled

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

Halton Hills residents got their first look at the blueprint for the future of recreation in this town over the next 10 years when a draft Strategic Action Plan was unveiled at two public meetings last week.

Only two-dozen residents attended the meetings held in Acton and Georgetown, Wednesday and Thursday.

The draft plan has over 100 recommendations including more space for seniors and youth centres, more trails of all types, more arenas, increased public/private financial partnerships and a Gellert Community Centre expansion.

The meetings were to gauge public reaction to these recommendations to date and to ask for comment before completing the final draft

for council approval, likely sometime in June.

"What we really want is reaction... did we miss something or are we recommending something that really won't work in the community," said Todd Brown, Principal Planner with Monteith-Brown Planning Consultants, the study team leader.

"When we look at other communities we have worked in, this community was very good in comparison to them," said Brown. "This community has been doing a lot of forward thinking—a lot of the (recreation and parks) policies that are in place are very progressive. We have identified some areas where some additional improvements could be done over time, but I think they're at the leading edge of many of those areas. The community really has done a lot of good things and it's just a matter of trying to keep that going."

The draft plan was crafted after input from

focus group workshops, individual interviews, community group surveys and a telephone household survey of about 385 residents. The last time a similar review was done occurred in 1994.

"So far what have you told us," Brown said referring to the public input. "Our residents desire high quality facilities and services, space is needed for seniors and youth programs, trails are considered to be a high priority and important to the community, pursuing partnerships with different groups is seen as valuable ...and you see an expansion potential at the Gellert Community Centre."

In the next 15 years, the Town's population is expected to grow by about 500 to 1,000 people per year— 65,000 by 2016 and 70,000 by 2021.

See BLUEPRINT, pg. 5

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