

# Bugs! Like death and taxes

You know, it's been a long time comin'. Since the first peeps of the frogs in the marshland in early spring, the entire world has been wishing for warm weather.

And, judging from this past week, we've certainly got it in spades.

I think hot weather is okay, with lots of sunshine, drizzling rain only in the middle of the night and a light breeze to make it interesting.

Skimpy clothes suddenly make an appearance with hot weather, and warm summer nights are just perfect for sipping on a cold Sleeman's while kicking back on the veranda.

But I must admit there are some aspects of the hazy, lazy (and humid) days of summer I don't really care for.

It's the bugs.

Mosquitoes, mosquitoes, mosquitoes! Gawd, it seems they're everywhere!

Just this week, The Sidekick and I dropped by a friend's house as he was watering some seedlings he'd set out earlier this spring.

(I knew we'd arrived at a perfectly inopportune time, as the first thing he said after his initial greeting was "You know that the season finale of *House* is on tonight?")

Subtlety ain't his strong point.

Anyway, not to deprive him of the season finale of *House*, we cut the visit short, and it was easy to do—the damn mosquitoes at his place could easily carry off small children.

I really dislike mosquitoes—and all the things they bring along, like itchy bites and getting behind my eyeglasses.

Oh sure, I know I could use bug repellent, but for some reason, I'm not a fan of spraying some chemical all over me. Besides, it stinks.

And more importantly, I'm not so sure those bug sprays actually work.

After watching others around me who have plastered and painted themselves with any one of a multitude of different so-called wonder sprays, it seems those same people

Ted Brown



will spend as much time as me, swatting and cursing the little bloodsuckers.

I don't really wanna come across as a complainer—I realize all bugs play a valued role in nature's food chain, providing food for birds and the birds in turn providing splattered white spots on the L'il Red Rocket.

But why do those darned mosquitoes have to target humans? Do we have sweeter blood or are we just more convenient targets with all those wide expanses of flesh, as we parade around in our shorts, T-shirts and tank tops?

I read somewhere that the only mosquitoes that bite are the females... okay, don't know where I'm going with this point, but in the interest of personal safety, I might as well drop it right now.

Regardless of all the facts, at this time of the year mosquitoes and black flies are just about as sure a thing as death and taxes.

They've always been here, and I suspect they always will, wreaking havoc on unsuspecting summer weather worshipers as they suck blood and create those itchy little bumps.

But as the heat bears down on us as we enjoy summer and the humidity allows them to feed and breed, there is one tiny consolation.

Before we know it, the little buggers will be frozen off with the first frost.

(Ted Brown can be reached at [tbrown@independentfreepress.com](mailto:tbrown@independentfreepress.com))

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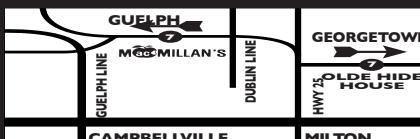
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### NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGE BY-LAW THE HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

#### PUBLIC MEETING ON JUNE 20, 2007 at 6:00 P.M.

The Halton District School Board proposes to amend the 2004 Education Development Charge By-Law (the "2004 By-Law") the Board passed on June 9, 2004.

The 2004 By-Law came into effect on June 14, 2004, and was last amended on June 21, 2006. The schedule of Education Development Charges imposed by the by-law is as follows:

Charge on residential development:	\$1,260.00 per dwelling unit
Charge on non-residential development:	\$0.35 per square foot (\$3.77 per square metre) of gross floor area

The proposed amending by-law will increase the charge on residential development to \$1,409 per dwelling unit and the charge on non-residential development to \$0.39 per square foot (\$4.20 per square metre) of gross floor area. The increase in the charge is due to an increase in the education land costs that the Board has incurred over those estimated when the 2004 By-Law was passed.

The 2004 By-Law referred to above applies to all lands in the Region of Halton. Accordingly, a key map showing the location of the land subject to the said by-law is not provided as part of this notice.

The Board will consider the proposed amending by-law at a public meeting to be held on **June 20, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Board Room, Halton District School Board, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington. All interested persons are invited to attend the public meeting.

The Board would appreciate receiving written submissions one week prior to the public meeting, so they may be distributed to the trustees for their review prior to the meeting. Submissions and requests to address the Board as delegations should be submitted to the Director of Education, Halton District School Board, c/o Gail Gortmaker, Manager, Office of the Director, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario, L7R 3Z2, Tel: (905) 335-3663, Fax: (905) 335-9802.

A copy of the proposed amending by-law, the education development charge background study in connection with the 2004 By-Law and information concerning the proposed amendment will be available on or after June 1, 2007, at the Board's administration offices, 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario, during regular business hours.

For further information, please contact Gerry Cullen, Superintendent of Facility Services, at (905) 335-3665, ext. 3357 or [culling@hdsb.ca](mailto:culling@hdsb.ca).

Wayne Joudrie  
Director of Education and Secretary to the Board

### Halton District School Board

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