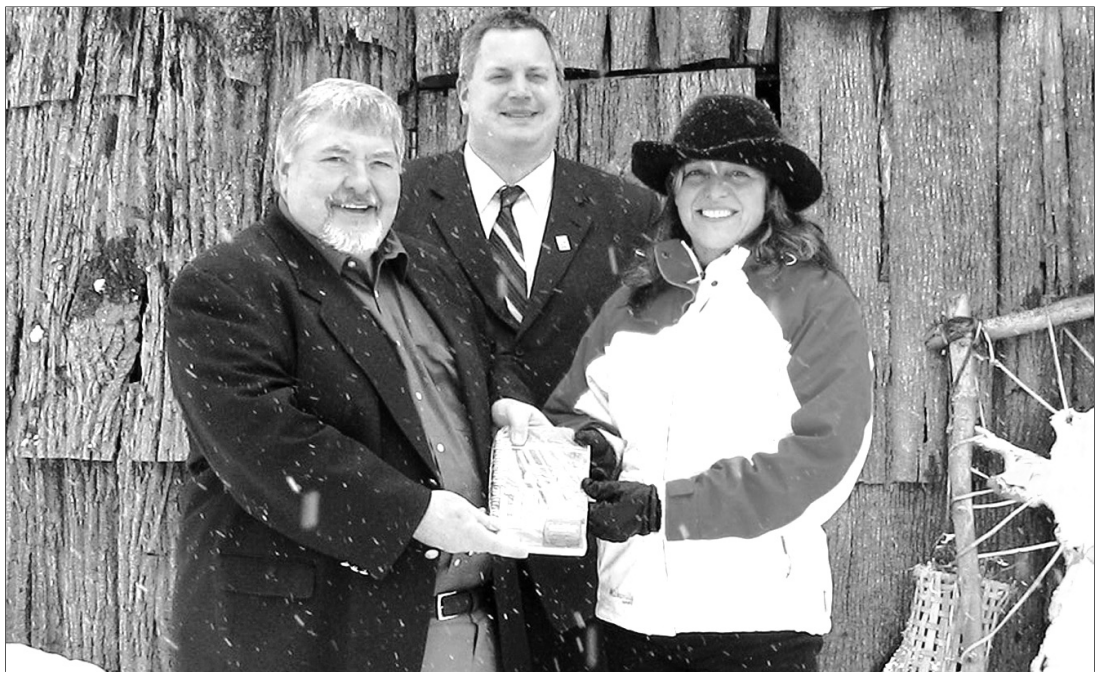

Trail guide donated

Conservation Halton (CH) Chair Brian Penman (left) and CAO Ken Phillips recently presented a copy of *Halton Hikes* to Monica Marquis from Halton Region as CH is donating 3,000 copies of its new trail guidebook in an effort to encourage watershed residents to explore nature trails while contributing to the environment and to their personal health and well-being. The donation is valued at approximately $60,000 and each book includes a free pedometer. The books are being given free of charge through the Halton Active Living Network to various municipalities, healthcare organizations and community groups targeting seniors, students and families. Recipient organizations include The Town of Halton Hills with 400 books for seniors as well as Halton Healthcare Services and Halton Region Child Health. Conservation Halton will also give books to all public libraries in the watershed as well as all school libraries. The adventure guide includes detailed directions, trail maps, notes on flora and fauna, birding hot spots, wildflower viewing sites, great fishing holes, scenic lookouts, hiking and biking trails, farm markets and scenic drives. More information on the *Halton Hikes* guidebook and Footsteps for Trees program is available online at www.haltonhikes.ca or by calling Conservation Halton at 905-336-1158. *Submitted photo*

Fire officials warn Earth Hour participants to use caution

For those who plan to take part in Earth Hour tomorrow (Saturday), Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services provides several safety tips for those who plan to use candles.

"Taking part in Earth Hour (where lights will be turned off from 8-9 p.m.) is a very important initiative, however, there is going to be increased risks if candles become part of the setting," said Harry Olivieri, Chief of Fire Prevention & Public Education.

Olivieri recommends using flashlights, battery-operated candles or lanterns where possible.

When candles are being used the fire department wants to see the following precautions used:

- Use candleholders that are tip-proof
- Keep children away from lit candles, matches and lighters as they can be amazed and curious when staring at an open flame.
- If leaving the room, blow the candle out.
- Do not place candles near curtains, drapes or other combustible materials.
- Do not try to use multiple candles for a heat source.
- When the lights come back on, blow out all candles and make sure matches and lighters are put away, out of the reach of children.
- For added safety, soak the wick with a wet cloth.

Olivieri also recommends that, in preparation for Earth Hour, families should test their smoke alarms and execute a family escape plan in advance.

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