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Stewarttown to vie for hoops title

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Saving the environment

Earth Week section inside

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End of an era in Hornby

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GLT opening night tomorrow

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FRIDAY...

Check out how much the mayor and councillors earned in 2007 in Friday's edition.

For breaking news go to: www.independentfreepress.com



Hairy Challenge

At the 20th annual Halton Skills Competition for high school students at M.M. Robinson High School in Burlington, Chris Hassell from Georgetown District High School took part in the hairstyle competition on Thursday.

Photo by Ron Kuzyk, special to I/FP

Wave of boomers to flood seniors centres

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

Expect a tsunami of baby boomers to impact the local seniors centres in the near future, Halton Hills council was told last week.

"The first wave of the baby boomer generation has now hit 60 years old," said Town seniors coordinator Wendy Krever. "These are the people born between 1947 and 1966 and the impact this generation will have on society will be like nothing we've ever seen."

Krever was updating council on the impact these boomers will

have on the future of seniors centres, and the planning that has already begun to prepare for them.

"This is the wave that has been entitled the tsunami— and there will be an increase in our seniors population for the next 30 to 40 years," she said.

Right now, only 10.2 per cent (5,500) of the town's population is over the age of 65. By 2020 that figure is expected to grow to 25 per cent (14,000).

Centres will become multi-generational, said Krever.

"We're going to have mom, grandma and great grandma all under one roof.

"There is one clear fact, that this will influence society over the next 30 years and will impact our seniors centres— anything the baby boomers touch is changed for good. And we've seen this through each decade since they were born."

The research is saying these boomers are reluctant to join the traditional seniors centres and participate in their traditional activities such as cards and games, said Krever, noting that the boomers even object to the term 'senior'. Hence the centres are considering a name change.

These baby boomers are being

described as the "food court generation", meaning that they want to sample different things, and are not loyal to one facility or program. They're less reluctant to volunteer unless there's a 'what's in it for me' payback.

"The boomers will be different with leisure," said Krever. "They will want experiential activities. They want activities of convenience. They're into holistic health. They're willing to pay for quality and there is much more emphasis on fitness."

Consequently the future role of seniors centres will shift towards

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