

THE INDEPENDENT



Rebels put the grab on Hamilton in junior rugby action

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Fundraising tourney won't be held this year

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INSIDE



Horticultural Society plant sale

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Silas taken 19th in OHL draft

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FRIDAY...

Canadian Tire is the first business in Halton Hills to complete a lighting retrofit that will not only save energy, but resulted in a significant cash rebate.



Rites of Spring

Glass artist Jennifer Tarrant shows some of her creations during the Williams Mill Rites of Spring art show Saturday. Tarrant has been a glass blower at Williams Mill for 13 years where the public can watch as the artists create their works from molten glass.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

But Region acknowledges collection problems

Public's use of GreenCart 'phenomenal'

MELANIE HENNESSEY
Special to The IFP

While there have been some difficulties over the past few weeks with Halton's new garbage collection program, the Region reports that it's not all bad news— its waste diversion rate has increased by more than 20 per cent so far.

At its meeting last Wednesday, the Region's planning and public works committee learned that in the first three weeks of the new program, the amount of garbage diverted from the landfill has risen from 43 per cent to 64 per cent.

This figure goes above and beyond the Region's target to have a 60 per cent diversion rate resulting from the new GreenCart program, weekly Blue Box collection and bi-weekly garbage pick-up.

Halton Director of Waste Management Rob Rivers acknowledged that residents have been frustrated with the delays in garbage collection.

"But at the same time, this is small pain for a large gain," he noted. "The way the general public has participated is phenomenal."

Rivers explained as the program moves forward, the diversion rate could actually go up or down, depending on residents' participation levels.

While many rural residents previously said they wouldn't be using the GreenCart as they already compost on their own properties, Rivers said there are actually lots of citizens taking part in the program in the rural area.

A representative from Miller Waste Systems, the Region's garbage contractor, also attested to the high participation rates.

Miller saw a 77 per cent increase in the volume of Blue Box/GreenCart materials put out last month compared to April 2007, said Miller senior vice president Blair McArthur.

See AMOUNT, pg. 3

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