

StatsCan figures show

Halton residents among most well-off

The latest figures released by Statistics Canada show that Halton's residents are among the most prosperous in Canada.

The statistics from the 2006 Census, released on Thursday, reveal families living in Halton earned a median income of \$95,766 in 2005, making the region the most affluent in Ontario and third highest in Canada.

Other details include that:

- The median income for all households, which includes families and single individuals, was less than that of families at \$83,496

- The probable reason driving income growth in Halton is the higher than average levels of education among local residents and the lower than average levels of unemployment

- Even among Halton's recent university graduates under the age of 34, median earnings ranged from nearly \$55,000 to \$60,000 in 2005— the highest annual earnings for new graduates in any region of Ontario

- For all one-person household, the median income was \$39,840.

"Halton's high quality of life makes this region well positioned to attract organizations that depend upon having a variety of skilled and well-educated employees to draw from," said Regional Chair Gary Carr.

"However, the Census data reveals that for some in our workforce, housing affordability is an escalating problem. Halton is working to ensure that our workforce has affordable housing options and that growth does not come at the expense of Halton's social fabric, quality of life or our environment."

The 2006 Census confirms that housing affordability continues to be a serious challenge for renters in Halton.

In 2005, 11,470— or 43 per cent— of renter households spent 30 per cent or more of their income on housing costs (rent plus utilities), with median monthly rent in Halton running at \$970 in 2005.

Halton Region's 2006 annual housing report showed that in 2005, household earnings of between \$40,000 and \$77,000 would be required for rental units costing \$1,000 to \$1,925 per month.

Halton's Comprehensive Housing Strategy, endorsed by regional council in 2006, describes the need for a variety of housing types at a range of costs, including the need for government-assisted housing.

And the Region's 2007 annual housing report identified a 500 to 800-unit gap for government-assisted housing and a 700 to 1,200-unit gap for less expensive, private market housing in Halton.

"A broad range of housing options is obviously a core need for individuals and families," said Carr. "Halton Region will continue to work toward attracting a dynamic, diverse workforce and ensuring that they have the opportunity to live and work in our community."

The Census figures used in the latest release are the last of a series of broad community profiles from Statistics Canada.

Police seek driver who left accident

Halton Police are investigating a fail to remain accident at the intersection of Mountainview Rd. and Maple Ave. that occurred about 7:40 p.m. Sunday.

Police say the driver's side of a vehicle traveling westbound on Maple Ave. was damaged when it was struck by a passing vehicle. Damage was \$500 to the mirror and quarter panel. The suspect vehicle is described as a black 4x4 truck.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 905-878-5511 ext. 2410 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.



Youths in action

The Mayor's Youth Action Committee hosted a coffee house at Star Light Café in Acton Sunday as part of International Youth Week. Program emcee Dallas Shewfelt (left) and Rebekka Bond were among the performers who showcased their musical talents.

Photo by Patti Post

Amount of waste soars

Continued from pg. 1

There have also been other substantial increases, including a 257 per cent jump in the amount of yard waste collected (due largely to the nice weather in April) and a 30 per cent increase in the overall amount of waste being put out by Halton residents. The latter is partly attributed to population growth.

McArthur went on detail what Miller has done to rectify the collection delays that've been experienced since the new program started early last month.

The measures include adding trucks to its fleet, bringing in more supervisors, holding weekly job fairs, hiring 15 new drivers last week, bringing in drivers from other locations and using sub-contractors.

The cost of the additional

resources will be absorbed by Miller as the Region pays for waste collection on a per tonne basis.

McArthur said Miller recognizes it still has to do more to improve service, so this week it's adding a further nine recycling/GreenCart collection vehicles and bringing on an additional temporary route supervisor and two summer employees, amongst other things.

"Our commitment to this contract has not wavered," he said. "We understand the seriousness of this matter and are committed to resolving it and restoring your (regional council), staff's and the residents' faith in our company."

He noted that Miller expects to have the matter resolved within two weeks.

For more waste collection information visit www.halton.ca.

Clarification/retraction

Copter crashed due to 'human factors issues'

A story regarding a helicopter crash in Georgetown South that appeared in the Wednesday, April 23 edition of *The Independent & Free Press* contained incorrect information.

The cause of the crash, according to Transportation Safety Board inspector Ken Webster, was "human factors issue" not pilot error as indicated in the story and headline.

Pilot/instructor Gary McMahon and a student passenger were injured in the crash which occurred April 19.

The Independent & Free Press regrets the error.

Veterans to be honoured with Candlelight Tribute

About 1,100 school children are expected to pay tribute to local war veterans tomorrow (Thursday) in Georgetown and Glen Williams by participating in the fifth annual Candlelight Tributes procession.

Beginning at 10 a.m. in Georgetown and 1 p.m. in Glen Williams, students will walk in a procession accompanied by a piper to the cenotaphs in both communities where they will place a lighted candle in a symbolic passing of the torch of remembrance.

The students will also have the chance to thank the veterans with a handshake or a hug.

The custom of placing a candle follows what the local school children of Holten, The Netherlands, began many years ago.

More than 1,300 Canadian soldiers are buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery and on May 4 (Holland's Remembrance Day) the local school children place flowers on all the graves.

Any area residents who would like to take part in tomorrow's Silent Walk will have an opportunity at 6:30 p.m.

The procession will leave from the Mill Street Royal Canadian Legion 120 at 7 p.m. and walk to Remembrance Park. Afterward everyone is welcome to attend a reception at the legion.

Candles for those taking part in the Silent Walk processions are available at Young's Pharmacy, Bergsma's Decorating and at North Star Dry Cleaners. Money collected will be used to purchase the candles used by the students and to cover the cost of the buses.

For more information about the tribute call Bob McNeilly of Branch 120, Georgetown, at 905-877-

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