

THE INDEPENDENT



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FRIDAY...

The Town of Halton Hills has put a moratorium on sending unwanted dogs to research facilities. See details Friday.

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Amber Kulik, 5, and her brother Carsen, 3 enjoyed just about every part of Saturday's barbecue hosted by RH Paving and Halton Hills Roofing at the Best Western in Georgetown— face painting, bouncy castle, dunk tank and, of course, a hot dog. The event was a way of the two local businesses thanking local residents for their patronage.

Enjoying the (hot)dog days of summer



Both companies also donated their services to the local Habitat for Humanity project, at 51 John Street. The dunk tank (inset) was a popular attraction, not only for the spectators, but for the participants too, as Amber Denis found a great way to cool off and beat the heat. Photos by Ted Brown

Few kids receiving mental health care— Zeni

STEPHANIE HOUNSELL
Special to The IFP

Eating disorders. Depression. Bipolar disorder. Anxiety. It's a laundry list of mental health conditions that nobody should have to deal with, least of all children. But on a regular basis, Dr. Deborah Zeni, a family physician in Georgetown, sees the lives of kids and teens ravaged by these illnesses, and it often seems they have nowhere to go. "Mental health illness in children is the most serious and most common serious problem we face in our practices," she said in a presentation at last

week's regional health and social services committee meeting. It was an impassioned presentation, with Zeni occasionally fighting back tears as she described the situation that plagues Halton and— more specifically— north Halton. Only a fraction of the 2,500 kids in Halton who should be receiving mental health services actually are, Zeni said. In Milton and Halton Hills, according to a Region staff report, there are an estimated 2,700 children and youths



DR. DEBORAH ZENI

between the ages of seven and 19 experiencing mental disorders at any given time. It's because of this desperate situation that Zeni said she wants to see the committee endorse having a child and youth psychiatrist offer services in north Halton two days per week— an option that recently presented itself and one that has been outlined in a staff report to committee. Kids and youths living in north Halton and seeking the care of a psychiatrist regularly have to travel to Toronto, Hamilton, etc., Zeni said. Although there are several youth psychiatrists currently in Halton, they have wait times ranging up to six months. See REGION, pg.3

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