

THE INDEPENDENT

& FREE PRESS

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WEDNESDAY...

Regional politicians were informed that, on several occasions this year, only one ambulance was available for all of Halton. Find out why Wednesday.

For breaking news go to: www.independentfreepress.com



Guarded optimism

Midfielder Alex Holtom (right) from the Georgetown District High School Rebels gives her mouth guard a workout as she duels with a Burlington Assumption Crusader for possession of the ball on Wednesday afternoon at Christ the King in a matchup between Halton senior girls' sides. Assumption broke through for a late goal to come away with a 1-0 victory in the regular-season game. See story on page 2 of the Sports & Leisure section.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Toilet rebate program will save loo-nies

STEPHANIE HOUNSELL
Special to The IFP

A program to help residents stop flushing money down the toilet has received a preliminary stamp of approval from the Region.

Wednesday, the Planning and Public Works Committee supported a recommendation to implement the Ultra Low Flow Residential Toilet Rebate Pilot Program in Halton, with a particular focus on Halton Hills.

The program would give a rebate of \$60 or \$75— depending on the toilet— back to homeowners who purchase high-efficiency models, with a limit of one rebate per household.

The program would help address water capacity issues caused by growth pressures, states a staff report on the matter.

The committee recommended allocating \$150,000 in subsidies for residents for this year and next.

Of that, \$75,000 would go toward implementing the program in Halton Hills— which has wastewater capacity limitations— with the other half going to Halton's other municipalities.

"Hallelujah, I'm glad something's being done," said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, who said Acton is experiencing a crisis in wastewater capacity.

Each high-efficiency toilet could save 28 litres of water per person per day, said Peter Crockett, commissioner of planning and public works, at the meeting.

A household could expect to save as much as \$43 per year per efficient toilet, which can be purchased for about \$99, the staff report reads.

Oakville Councillor Allan Elgar said it's about time, particularly since neighbouring municipalities already have similar programs.

"People are starting to question our forward thinking," he said.

The recommendation will go to regional council Wednesday.

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