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Program to aid
underprivileged
kids winds down

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fare well at
Halton meets

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FRIDAY...

A Terra Cotta resident is fed up with drivers ending up on her front lawn, but finding a solution to her problem is difficult. See Friday's edition for details.

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Golden girl

Halton Hills resident Emily Boycott performs the ribbon routine that won her one of five gold medals at last week's Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China. The 24-year-old Boycott took first place in the ribbon, hoop, rope and ball events, along with the all-around title in the rhythmic gymnastics competition in her debut on the world stage.

Photo by Ted Brown

Taxpayers will pay for town's future growth

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

It was standing room only Monday night in the Halton Hills council chambers when residents came out to air their views on the future growth direction for this town.

Residents had been invited to express their opinions to council before the town leaders give the Town's position to Halton Region staff compiling the Sustainable Halton Plan, which sets the future course on growth for Halton.

Despite the packed gallery, only nine spoke—two developers, three former politicians, one farmer and three environment-leaning residents. Statements varied from more development in Acton, growth based on green sustainable planning principles (build up— not out), the current situation— overstretched roads and water/waste-water systems and Town facilities— say no to all development, negativity of growth on farmers, and consideration of all impacts— social, economic and environment.

Meanwhile Hemson Consulting, which had been retained in the spring to prepare a report on the fiscal impact of various growth scenarios, painted a bleak picture for taxpayers over the next 20 years.

The company developed 11 scenarios from now until 2031— from no growth, non-residential growth only to population increases in 20,000 increments up to 130,000.

All scenarios to 2026 will have pressure for tax hikes— and not until 2031 will taxpayers start to see some of the benefits. Only four of the 11 scenarios indicate a happy outcome for taxpayers by 2031. The best ranking was a scenario that saw the town's population reaching 90,000 and a 250-hectare urban boundary expansion. (See story pg. 5).

Director of Finance Ed DeSousa had his own paintbrush out as well, and suggested that growth, versus no-growth, is a better picture for this community.

DeSousa said the most recent example of slow growth was the hold placed last month on the proposed expansion/renovation of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre & Library. Examples in other municipalities have included higher tax rates and issuance of debt.

See GROWING, pg. 3



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