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Halton needs 9,000 more child care spaces- Region

To meet the growing needs of its population today, Halton needs 8,895 additional licensed child care spaces for children aged 0-12 years, a recent report from Halton's Children's Services concludes.

Based on the Our Kids Network research, Halton's demographics are conservative. The Ministry of Finance projects Halton will have 4.771 new births by 2011. but local live data indicates that Halton has already reached 4,849 in 2006.

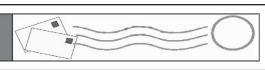
The planning was supported by the Our Kids Network, which comprises a number of community agencies working with families, children and youth across Halton. The Child Care Plan offers a comprehensive snapshot of services currently available, plus planned future directions for supports in each Halton community.

The current population of children 0-12 years is 70,747. Forty three per cent (20,756) of those would access licensed child care if available. However, Halton currently offers 11,861 licensed child care spaces, which leaves a shortfall of 8,895 spaces.

The plan identifies the projected cost of meeting the current need over five years- 2007-2011- including fee subsidy, special needs, wage subsidy, under-funded wage subsidy to total \$94.5 million.

Consolidating the work of the Integrated Early Learning and Child Care Plan, a step-by-step Action Plan has been developed to identify work to be accomplished to 2010. To access a full copy of the Integrated Early Learning and Child Care Plan, follow www.halton.

Letters (



Toddler off to Mouse House thanks to passport help

My name is Cameryn and I'm 2 years old.....

My family was planning a trip to Walt Disney World for February 10, 2007.

There was 16 of us going, grandma, aunts and uncles and all my cousins!!!

What fun we would have....

When applying for my birth certificate my parents found out that I was not registered as a live birth which meant that it would take 8 weeks to get my certificate. Before booking the trip they went to the passport office to see if there was anything that could be done...... The man at the office said that one month before travel go to the town where I was born and get a travel letter and they would give us a passport...

So the trip was booked and I was going to Florida. However, when my mom went to get the travel letter one month before we were to leave they told us that it was for babies one and under. They could not give us one.

After 100 phone calls to all level of government, it was the people around us who helped the most.

I would like to thank Rick Bonnette, Aretta Morgan and Terry Jackson from Ted Chudleigh's office, who phoned the Register Generals office every day for a month trying to speed up our application; also Vicki Tytaneck at the mayor's office in Oakville; the staff at the Brampton passport office who were all a great

I received my birth cer-

Mickey says hello!

tificate on Wednesday, February 7 and my passport on the 9th just in time to leave on Feb. 10th.

And even though I was

sleeping I got to meet Mickey Mouse!!!

Thank you everyone.

Cameryn Vidler.

Do you agree with the Salvation Army's decision not to call police when three gold rings, valued at \$350, were stolen from it's Thrift Store recently, or should the thief, if caught, be treated more harshly for stealing from a charity?



Ted Medland, Acton "It's theft and should be dealt with legally. If evervone wanted to forgive and forget, we'd have a society over run with crime you've got to do it legally with the police.'



Bruce Pinder, Rockwood "They should be slapped hard if they're caught, because they shouldn't be stealing – put them in jail tomorrow. The Salvation Army can forgive and forget, but if it was your rings or my rings, you'd want them back and vou'd want the cops to help you get them back."



Heather Collis. Georgetown "I do believe that you should forgive those that are willing to at least admit their sins. As long as they do bring the rings back – if they are big enough to admit to themselves that they've done something wrong - then forgive them."



Kathy Verbeek, Acton Forgive and forget – absolutely, that's the way to go, and if it turns out that the rings are returned then that was the way to go. It would be nice if the rings are returned, but I doubt that will happen."

Losing your grip?

Take this test: Are your dentures.....



□Loose? ☐ Cracked or worn? ☐In your pocket? **■Missing teeth?** Making your gums

If you answered "yes" to any of these give us a call!

Tracy Mitchell D.D. 130 Mill St. E., Unit 103 Acton, ON L7J 1J1 Telephone: (519) 853-0079 Fax: (519) 853-1134