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## Letters

### Fur issue one of kindness, compassion

To the editor;

Re: *Angela opts for real fur*

Sadly, all too many people who admire a real fur garment only see the fur itself and not the horror behind it. The fur issue is not one of political correctness but one of compassion and kindness toward other living beings. Their capacity for pain is like our own. In Canada, we wouldn't consider putting our worst felon through the suffering that we currently impose upon innocent animals.

Angela, it is apparent how much you have always loved your pets. Are you aware that some furs imported from eastern nations have been from cats and dogs which have been skinned alive? Could you imagine this being your beloved dog? The suppliers have dyed their fur to look like that of wild animals and lie about the type of animals in order to gain the acceptance of western markets.

In our nation, wild animals suffer the torment of trapping. Domestic fur-bearing animals are electrocuted. It's necessary to be explicit about this because lack of knowledge will only perpetuate the suffering imposed upon these creatures. There are excellent man-made naturals which are exceedingly warm, dry and don't even resemble fur.

I am closing this letter with the following quotation from Dr. Albert Schweitzer: "Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace."

Sincerely,  
B. McDowall,  
Acton.



**ART FUNDRAISER:** Campbellville artist Kelly MacIntryre (right) will donate a portion of proceeds from her work, now on display at Kristine Cieslok's Blue Springs Salon and Spa on Mill Street, to the buyer's charity of choice. — Frances Niblock photo

## Acton Hub opens at MSB

By Frances Niblock

Raising kids can be a tough job and finding help can be tougher, but Halton's Our Kids Network hopes to make it easier for families to find the services they need at a neighbourhood Hub at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School as outlined last Monday.

The \$450,000 Hub, a 1,385-square-foot building with offices, a kitchen and multi-use area, will be built at the pool end of the school, paid for with provincial funding.

Hubs are Halton's holistic approach to providing families, schools and the community what they need for children to reach their potential.

Halton is two-and-a-half years into a five-year Hub pilot project. It identified four communities where children are at-risk, including Acton, and called for Hubs to be built.

The Hubs include pre and post-natal classes, workshops on parenting, play programs for kids, health and nutrition programs and parenting help, aimed at

kids from birth to 18 years.

A Hub operated at Robert Little School part-time for several months last year, but provincial Best Start funding allowed them to build a separate facility in Acton at MSB.

At the official groundbreaking ceremony — or snow turning — at MSB, Halton Chairman Gary Carr saluted the partners who are working to help children — "our most important asset" — thrive.

"We are building on our past successes to create a seamless, integrated system of support and services for children, youth and families," Carr said, adding Halton will continue providing the Our Kids partners — both school boards, Halton Child and Youth Services, Halton Children's Aid Society, Transitions for Youth, Halton Police and Halton Region — with the resources to do the job.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette said it was an exciting day for childcare in Halton Hills, especially for teens who are often "lost" when it comes to programs

and services.

Halton's Director of Children Services, Mary Beth Jonz said the Hub is a stepping stone to Halton's integrated children, family and youth vision.

"This is for the whole community — this is a welcoming location for the entire community," Jonz said.

After the official ceremony, Jacki Oxley, the Halton District School Board's school and community liaison said the Acton community would determine what programs and services are offered in the new Hub.

"All last year at Robert Little — a parent member and others said they really wanted an adult literacy program — and so, working with the public library and using the computers at Robert Little, that whole program was put in place and ran every Wednesday night, and also over the summer," Oxley said.

The annual operating budget for the four Hubs in Halton is approximately \$340,000, paid by partners in the Our Kids Network.

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Sunday 10:30 a.m.

April 1 PALM SUNDAY  
ESSENTIALS (Isaiah 50:4-9a)  
April 5 MAUNDY THURSDAY  
7:30 pm - Cantata: OUT OF THE SHADOWS  
April 8 EASTER  
8:30 am - Easter Sunrise  
10:30 am - THE EMPTY TOMB (I Corinthians 15:12-20)  
April 15 Rev. Gerald Rennie  
April 22 Youth Service  
April 29 ARE YOU THE MESSIAH? (John 10:22-30)