



PIC INFORMATION: Acton parents and those from other parts of Halton networked, exchanged information and got tips from experts at the recent Halton District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) workshop in Milton.

— Submitted photo

Parents play vital role in education

The latest on combating bullies, helping boys learn and helping kids deal with stress were some of the issues highlighted at the third annual Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) conference recently in Milton.

The Halton District School Board's PIC recognizes that parents play a vital role in the development and education of their kids and in school successes, so it provides a regular opportunity for

School Council members to meet, share ideas, offer input and hear presentations on various education topics.

Acton's Tania Spill, who sits on Parent Councils at both Robert Little and McKenzie-Smith Bennett School, is on the PIC committee and chaired the conference, her third. She said she continues to be impressed with the power of volunteers.

"I think the biggest thing for me from the conference was how much difference just a few people getting involved can make in accomplishing a lot of things with students and our schools," Spill said after last weekend's free conference.

"It doesn't take a huge organization even to affect change, and I learned a lot about my approach to being a parent, about communication with the teachers and homework tools," Spill

said, adding she can now share the information with parents, who sometimes feel overwhelmed and question if they were doing the right thing.

"I didn't have to go and buy a huge homework kit. I didn't have to go and invest hours on seminars, but just having that one-on-one in small groups with other parents was perfect," Spill said, adding she can take the experiences of other parents and tailor them to her children and their schools.

The keynote speaker was Louise Kent, a speaker and performer with Me to We's international tours, whose stories are designed to help parents nurture children who will care and contribute and find their place in the world.

Spill said they hope to have a Parent Council representative from each of Halton's schools on the PIC.

Get a grip on winter snow

Ontario's roadways are about to get hit hard by old man winter, and motorists across the Great White North are getting ready by changing over to winter tires or trying to decide if winter tires are right for them.

To help drivers make the right winter tire decisions, the tire industry has established a website — betiresmart.ca — that offers a range of information about the performance benefits of winter tires and how to select and maintain them.

The latest generation of winter tires delivers better grip in all cold weather driving conditions because their rubber compounds are designed to maintain their elasticity at temperatures as cold as minus 30 degrees Celsius and lower. This superior flexibility, which kicks in when temperatures fall below seven degrees Celsius, means drivers gain greater traction and control, particularly when cornering or braking.

All-season tires can provide safe all-weather performance, but drivers need to know that winter tires deliver up to 50 per

cent more winter traction.

Motorists are also advised to use winter tires in all wheel positions. Installing winter tires on only the front or rear axle positions can create a serious traction imbalance that can result in loss of control, particularly when cornering or braking or making an avoidance manoeuvre.

When shopping for winter tires, consumers should be mindful of the universal symbol of a true winter tire, the "three peak mountain snowflake", which is stamped on the sidewall. Tires with this distinctive symbol meet or exceed snow traction performance established by the tire industry. Another winter tire shopping tip is to have your tires installed earlier rather than later at your local tire retailer to avoid long line-ups.

Another winter driving safety essential is proper tire inflation, which is harder to maintain in winter because of greater temperature fluctuations. Every five degree decrease in temperature results in a loss of about one psi in air

pressure. A temperature drop of 15 degrees Celsius, for example, which can happen frequently in winter, typically results in 10 per cent under-inflation.

Under-inflated tires have

a smaller footprint, which weakens their grip. The result is diminished braking and handling characteristics, along with higher fuel bills due to increased rolling resistance.

Controlled deer hunt underway

The annual controlled shotgun deer hunt will take place in Milton and Halton Hills from November 1 to November 5. Hunting during these dates will be allowed a one half hour before sunrise until one half after sunset.

Halton Police, along with enforcement officers from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Halton, and Municipal By-law officers from Milton and Halton Hills will be staffing the areas involved.

The agencies involved have planned a coordin-

ated response to ensure the safety of hunters, property owners and enforcement officers during the hunt.

The shotgun hunt covers only five designated days, however other species are "in season" throughout the region at various times. Unauthorized hunting or abuse of natural resources can always be reported to a 24 hour tip line 1-877-TPS-MNR.

Residents are also reminded that it is not uncommon for bears to be seen in Halton Hills. Bear sightings should be reported to the Bearwise

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**Sundays at
10:30 a.m.**

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Nov. 7: Remembrance Sunday
WHAT SHALL WE DO? (Zechariah 7:1-10)

Nov. 14: THERE IS A POINT TO ALL THIS! (Malachi 3:13-4:6)

Nov. 21: Anniversary Sunday - Rev. Jacqui Foxall

Nov. 18: WALKING IN THE LIGHT AND WAITING FOR JESUS
(Isaiah 1:1-5)

7:00pm Community Advent Service, Bethel Christian Reformed Church

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"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."
St. John 4:23 KJV

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