

Youth crime would 'skyrocket' without drop-in centres

Youth drop-in hours and programs in Acton and Georgetown should not be affected by a Town committee decision to give a lot less money than requested to Links2Care, which operates the centres.

If Council today (Thursday) endorses a recommendation from the Community Affairs committee, Links2Care will get \$13,200 from the Town in each of the next two years – a “significant” 10 per cent increase, not the 42 per cent requested.

It costs \$142,000 to run the Acton and Georgetown youth programs, leaving a \$3,426 deficit that Links2Care's financial director, Mark Spence, said could

be found in other parts of their budget, that includes funding from the United Way and Halton Community Investment Fund.

Acton Councillor Mike O'Leary was concerned with the 42 per cent budget increase request, and the proposed four-year term. He convinced the committee to support a 10 per cent increase, in a two-year deal, laughing at Links2Care's contention that a 42 per cent increase was “slight.”

In support of the youth programs, Village Constable Moreen Smith cautioned that “youth crime would skyrocket” without the youth centres, adding a “bored mind is a dangerous mind.”

Youth co-ordinator

Amanda Kostjuk was asked how they balance the needs at the Georgetown drop-in with 13,000 annual visits against Acton, where there are 1,500 annual visits. She said volunteers, including two co-op students, help with the increased demands in Georgetown.

Asked if the youth programming should be part of the Town's mandate and not contracted out, Recreation and Parks director Terry Alyman said the Town's focus is on recreation and leisure, while the youth centres deal with issues including drug use and abuse, sexual activity and social interventions, which require a different set of skills.

After the meeting,

Spence said Links2Care is “quite happy” with the dialogue with the Town and they will “strive to

provide the best service to the youth with the funding that's available.” He said the 42 per cent budget

increase would have provided opportunities for more youth programming.



THE WATERS FINE: This frigid flock of water fowl found the only open area of water on Fairy Lake on Saturday – sort of like their own hot tub.

– Marie Shadbolt photo



The Regional Municipality of Halton

www.halton.ca

GET INVOLVED, SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Halton Regional Council invites you to consider becoming part of a Citizens' Committee or Board to help provide input into the decision-making process. Appointed for a four-year term, members of these groups review and discuss important issues such as accessibility in the community, adequate and effective police services and governance of the Royal Botanical Gardens. These appointments give Halton residents from a variety of backgrounds the opportunity to contribute their skills and perspective to enhance the quality of life in our community.

Regional Council wishes to ensure that its boards and committees reflect the diverse nature of its community and invites all residents of Halton to consider these opportunities. An Interview Committee of Regional Council will recommend qualified candidates for these positions to Regional Council.

To apply: Application forms are available on our website www.halton.ca, by e-mail to regionalclerk@halton.ca, or from the Office of the Regional Clerk, Halton Region, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, during business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Completed applications must be received at the Office of the Regional Clerk **no later than Thursday, December 23, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.** Completed forms may be submitted on-line, by mail or by fax to 905-825-8838.

Susan Lathan
Regional Clerk

Halton Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

Purpose: Pursuant to the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001*, the purpose of the Committee is to provide advice on the identification and removal of barriers to people with disabilities regarding Halton Region programs, services and facilities and on the development of an annual accessibility plan.

Members Needed: Up to 14 citizens-at-large (under review). The *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* requires that the majority of the members of the Committee are people with disabilities.

Meetings: Generally held on the third or fourth Monday of every month, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., or as required.

Contact: Gabrielle Baldazzi, Senior Policy Advisor, 905-825-6000, ext. 7485

Royal Botanical Gardens Board of Directors

Purpose: The Royal Botanical Gardens, a registered charitable organization, is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who ensures that the Gardens fulfills its legislated mandate and that its mission, policies and strategies are appropriate and current. The Board also ensures financial responsibility and approves the Gardens' annual budget.

Members Needed: 3 citizen representatives with Financial and/or Fundraising skills

Meetings: Monthly on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at RBG Centre, Burlington

Contact: Mark Runciman, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Botanical Gardens, 905-527-1158, ext. 221

Halton Regional Police Services Board

Purpose: The Halton Regional Police Services Board is responsible for the provision of adequate and effective police services in Halton. The Board must also satisfy itself that the standards issued by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services are upheld. Involvement in the day-to-day operational decisions of the Police Service is prohibited.

Members Needed: Halton Regional Council is seeking one citizen-at-large to represent it on the Halton Regional Police Services Board. All applicants will be required to apply for and obtain a security clearance at the Police Services Records Bureau.

Meetings: The Board meets monthly on a Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 2:00 p.m. Meetings are held in the Halton Regional Police Services Headquarters building, or may be held on a rotational basis throughout the Region. Applicants must be willing to commit to a minimum of 20 hours per month. This commitment can increase dramatically if members are involved in other Board responsibilities, and may also require attendance at evening and week-end functions to represent the Police Services Board.

Contact: Further information regarding the Board's roles and responsibilities can be obtained at: www.haltonpolice.ca/AboutUs/PSB or by calling Dorothy McDonald, Executive Director, Halton Regional Police Services Board at 905-825-4747, ext. 5014

Please let us know as soon as possible if you will have an accessibility or accommodation need at a Halton Region hosted event or meeting.
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