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Some improvement noticed

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dopamine-producing cells of an aborted fetus.

In Ms McKenzie's case, the cells of four fetuses were cultivated and then transplanted through four holes drilled into her forehead.

It's estimated about 10 per cent of the transplanted cells will attach and develop in Ms McKenzie's brain.

That could bring Ms McKenzie's cell count back up to 45-50 per cent, a level at which she'd experience no symptoms.

She received the operation after taking part in a 40-person study arranged by US Parkinson's researchers and funded by the National Institute of Health in Washington, DC.

Though participants eventually received actual fetal transplants, some were initially given placebo operations.

Ms McKenzie received a placebo operation in 1994. She traveled to Colorado for the real transplant last December.

Though it typically takes up to 15 months for results to show, Ms McKenzie has already noticed some improvement.

"I don't need help getting out of the bed every morning," she said. "I'm feeling a little more independent about being able to go places and being able to hang in there."

Symptoms of Parkinson's range from excessively rapid movements to almost complete immobility.

Generally thought of as an older person's disease, today 20 out of every 100 sufferers are under the age of 40.

While the exact cause of the disease is unknown, it has been linked to everything from genetic suscepti-

bility to head injuries and even chemicals in the air.

There is no cure.

To fight the disease, Ms McKenzie downs 25 pills a day.

At the beginning of April, she went for a post-operative check-up, undergoing about 12 hours of medical tests.

At one stage of the check-up, Ms McKenzie was temporarily taken off her medication.

Prior to the operation, that would have rendered her completely immobile.

The news was slightly better this time around.

"I think I did better than before," she said. "I could move. That was a plus."

Heading into the operation, Ms McKenzie was featured in a The Nature of Things television documentary aimed at showing the true face of Parkinson's.

She has continued her campaign before the camera with a recent taping of 20/20.

She was on the show to discuss the ethics of placebo operations.

Today, Ms McKenzie defends the procedure.

"Nobody twisted my arm to go in to do the study," she said.

Ms McKenzie is looking forward to meeting the other study participants for the first time in July.

"I think it will be very emotional for a lot of us," she said. "We've been through a lot. There will be a lot of bonding, I think."

Though the operation has not yet proved to be a wonder cure, Ms McKenzie has not given up hope.

"It (hope) hasn't decreased, but it's more realistic," she said. "I'm not thinking that there will be an overnight miracle."

Showdown looms before OMB

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the property.

No more than 27 people are permitted to occupy the site at any one time and no overnight accommodations are permitted, except for up to five tents and two trail-

ers for students and faculty only.

Mr. Flindall said residents would like to come to a resolution with the museum — an agreed list of conditions — to avoid an OMB hearing.

The hearing is slated for the fall.

Absence checks spark board woes

By DENNIS SMITH

Special to The Champion

It could be a long and winding road towards developing an absence check program for Halton public schools.

"It's a lot more complicated than anyone imagined," Oakville Trustee Peter Petrusich told a recent board meeting. "The more you think about it, the more things come up."

He spoke during an information update about the Halton District School Board's efforts to develop policy on the issue. School boards are being urged to establish absence check systems by the Ministry of Education.

Absence checks involve telephoning or sending a message to parents as a safety measure if their child does not arrive at school.

But finding helpers and telephone lines to call parents of absentees is no easy business.

"If you ask staff, they don't have the phone line to do it and they often have to leave the room and lock their office," said Mr. Petrusich, a member of the policy development committee. "We have to get clarification about what kind of levels were going to do. And we should go back and get costing information first."

He also cited situations like a snowstorm, where up to 150 families might have to be called.

Mr. Petrusich suggested establishing absence checks at elementary schools first and possibly later at secondary schools. "I don't think it's doable at the secondary school level; there are fewer volun-

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TTY: 878-1657

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

MILTON
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878-7211

PUBLIC NOTICE

ST. PETERS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The Halton Catholic District School Board has made a proposal to the Town of Milton to modify the vehicular entrance and parking configuration at St. Peters Catholic School. The proposed works would be on Town of Milton Park Land, commonly known as Robert Baldwin Park. The proposal will involve the removal of 4 mature trees to be replaced with 8 young trees.

You are invited to a public information meeting to be hosted by the Halton Catholic District School Board and the Town of Milton Leisure Services Department.

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

7:00 pm

St. Peters Catholic School
700 Woodward Avenue

For further information, please contact:
Doug Thompson
Coordinator, Parks & Facilities Development
Dept. of Leisure Services
Town of Milton
905-878-7252 ext.181

The Town of Milton is currently preparing a study of the stormwater and environmental impacts associated with its proposed urban expansion, termed a "Subwatershed Plan" (refer to area shown in the Figure below). This study is being prepared as a Master Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Process.

The purpose of the study is to identify environmental and stormwater management principles for the Phase 1 Secondary Plan Area (Bristol Survey). In addition, the Subwatershed Plan documents environmental and physical constraints and opportunities for the balance of Milton's urban expansion area, as well as the rural area within Areas 2 and 7.

The study is nearing completion and the Town is inviting the Public, and other Stakeholders, to this meeting to review the study findings and to provide input on the preferred management strategy for Subwatershed Areas 2 and 7.

Public input and comment are invited on the study. Comments will be received until July 13, 1999

For further information, contact:
Mr. Bill Mann
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43 Brown Street
Milton, ON L9T 5H2
Tel: (905) 878-7211, ext. 124

