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Happy Easter!

Children from the Rainbow Village Daycare Centre took part in their annual Hop-a-thon for muscular dystrophy Wednesday morning with some 30 hoppers taking part in the two-minute event. Here, Amy Lintack (left) and Chelsea Gillespie adjust their bunny ears afterward.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Conservation Halton Foundation board of directors gets dismissed

By LISA CARTWRIGHT
The Champion

In what Conservation Halton (CH) officials are calling a "fresh start," nine board members from its volunteer fundraising body were recently let go.

"This was done to create a fresh start for a valuable program that now has renewed focus," stated a CH press release issued March 31.

On that day, all CH Foundation board members except three CH representatives who must sit on the fundraising body were hand-delivered letters from CH CAO secretary-treasurer Theresa Maguire-Garber.

The letters, marked private and confidential,

stated the volunteers' contracts had been terminated and they had to reapply to CH if they wanted to continue to serve on the foundation's board of directors. Originally, most contracts didn't end until late 2000.

At a March 30 CH board of directors meeting, members went in-camera. Afterward, a recorded 6-5 vote had board members deciding that foundation volunteers should be relieved of their contracts.

"I was quite honestly shocked," said Cindy Lunau who has sat on the foundation board of directors since 1997. "I am hurt. I am confused by the action. I can't imagine what good reason it can be."

However, now former foundation board member

Don Ford said he wasn't surprised that it happened. "They needed to do that. In some ways it should have been done earlier."

Mr. Ford said CH has undergone drastic changes over the last several years, including a 30 per-cent cut in government funding. When an organization changes, it makes sense that the fundraising board should as well. "We serve with the approval of the board. The board decides what to do and they are in full power to do it."

Ms Maguire-Garber said it wasn't an easy decision for the CH board of directors to make. She said the foundation members had done a tremendous job, but the time had come to make changes.

In January, the board unanimously voted to

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