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Jessica Lyons, 13, of Milton was excited when leaving for Florida Tuesday morning. But unfortunately, her dream of going to Disney World was dashed by terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C.

Photo by RON KUZYK

Dreamlift kids get stranded, but arrive safely in Florida

By **TIM WHITNELL**
Special to The Champion

A plane of disabled and seriously ill children — including one teen from Milton hoping to enjoy her first visit to Disney World — had their dreams dashed by

Tuesday's terrorist attacks in the United States.

SkyService Flight 426, which departed from Hamilton's John C. Munro International Airport Tuesday morning, passed over the Washington D.C. area at about 9 a.m. — frighteningly close to the time the terrorist campaign started.

The special charter flight was headed to Orlando, Fla. with 95 children aged 6 to 19 years. The youngsters, who have severe physical disabilities or life-threatening illnesses, were anticipating fun in the sun and meetings with Mickey Mouse, Goofy and Donald Duck through the

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Region responds in aftermath of U.S. terrorist attacks

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**

The Champion

Halton Region was quick to respond in the aftermath of terrorist attacks on the United States Tuesday.

Immediately following the crashing of two commercial airplanes into the World Trade Centre's twin towers, members of the Halton Region Emergency Control Group (including mayors, CAOs, and emergency response personnel) met to discuss the matter and determine how Halton could be involved in the treatment and care of victims.

Hospital services were offered to accept any overflow of patients from the New York area. As of press time, no patients were received in Halton.

"There was an unspeakable assault on democracy yesterday," Regional Chair Joyce Savoline said before opening Wednesday's regional council meeting with a moment of silence.

"We are witnessing the reality of terrorism — how evil it is. Simply put, we must all remember good must prevail."

With air traffic across the U.S. halted, many planes were re-directed to Canadian airports, including Pearson International Airport in Toronto.

A Halton ambulance, as well as several others from neighbouring municipalities, was posted at the airport in case an emergency developed while re-directed planes collected.

Another ambulance was posted at the Burlington Air Park in the event additional air traffic was routed there — although none was.

"Our heartfelt sympathies and thoughts are with the emergency service personnel, families and friends of all those affected by this very tragic and historical day," announced Mayor Gord Krantz, speaking on behalf of town council, staff and the community.

All municipal flags have been placed at half mast out of respect for the thousands of people believed to have perished.

The Halton Region District School Board also placed their flags at half mast

"There was an unspeakable assault on democracy yesterday. We are witnessing the reality of terrorism — how evil it is. Simply put, we must all remember good must prevail."

JOYCE SAVOLINE

following news of the event.

According to board spokesperson Marnie Denton, principals and vice-principals were kept abreast of events as they unfolded. Information was then directed throughout schools as principals felt best.

The Tragic Events Response Team was also made available for schools seeking grief counselling. Additional grief-related information was sent home with students

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