

CATC runs therapy clinics

The Children's Assessment and Treatment Centre (CATC) offers walk-in therapy clinics in Milton, Burlington and Oakville. The clinics provide quick access to therapy services for families with children up to age 17 years and help to connect them to further services if required. For more information, call (905) 634-2347.

NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT New GO Train Layover Facility Town of Milton

THE STUDY

Hatch Mott MacDonald has been retained by GO Transit to locate and complete a preliminary design for a new train layover facility for the purpose of storing trains overnight. GO will be increasing service on the existing Milton corridor in the future in response to rapid regional growth in the area. GO will be operating more and longer trains on the Milton Line and, as a result, a new larger layover facility will be required. The proposed layover facility will need to accommodate storage facilities for up to eight trains.



STUDY LIMITS

THE PROCESS

The project will follow the planning process for a Group B project as outlined in the GO Transit - Class Environmental Assessment Document (1995) with the opportunity for public involvement throughout. The project is currently in the Need and Justification Stage which involves identifying feasible concept alternatives for the facility. Public information meetings will be held during the study to seek public comment and input on alternatives considered. At the completion of this study, an environmental study report will be prepared to document the process, preliminary design work and the public and agency consultation process. The report will include a description of the environmental impacts and commitments to mitigation for the proposed new site. The report will be filed for public and agency review prior to construction and notices of viewing locations will be published at that time.

COMMENTS

You are invited to comment on this undertaking before any final decisions are made. Any groups or individuals wishing to comment on or be involved in the Environmental Study must indicate their interest, preferably in writing to:

Chris Bishop, Project Manager or J.G. Ashbee, P. Eng., Senior Project Engineer
Hatch Mott MacDonald GO Transit
2599 Speakman Drive 20 Bay Street, Suite 600
Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1B1 Toronto, Ontario M5J 2W3
905-403-4456 telephone (416) 869-3600 ext. 5211 telephone
905-855-2607 facsimile (416) 869-1563 facsimile
email: cbishop@hatchmott.com email: grega@gotransit.com

GO Transit is the Province of Ontario's interregional public transit service for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton areas

Comments and information regarding this study are being collected to assist in meeting the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act. This material will be maintained on file for use during the study and may be included in study documentation. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

New guide geared to help residents in case of crisis

By HOWARD MOZEL
Special to The Champion

From natural disasters to man-made calamities the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) says it's as ready as it can be to cope with emergencies that threaten local lives and property.

Central to this preparedness is the HRPS emergency plan, a comprehensive strategy setting in motion everything from communications to evacuation in the event of a widespread situation, like an ice storm, to a more localized catastrophe, such as a plane crash.

"We think that Halton is very well prepared," says Police Chief Ean Algar. "It's not ad hoc any more. It's a refined process now."

According to HRPS Senior Planner Keith Moore, the service plan acts as a general guideline for a fast initial response to all manner of emergencies, as well as the efficient deployment and co-ordination of resources with those of other emergency and support services. The decision to set the plan in motion rests with the police on-scene commander and depends, of course, on the severity of the situation.

HRPS' first responsibility will be to maintain law and order then bring the appropriate agencies up to speed with as much information as possible. HRPS will establish a mobile command unit, alert those in harm's way and co-ordinate evacuation procedures. Working with the Region's commissioner of social services, police will designate and set up evacuation centres as needed.

Officers will also set up both inner and outer perimeters in order to restrict access to essential personnel.

Police will also notify the Coroner's Office in the event of fatalities then assist with the collec-

tion, security and identification of the deceased, as well as notify the next of kin.

Depending on the scope of the event, police could activate the Region's Emergency Control Group (ECO) and initiate clear communications between the ECO and the mobile command unit. Prompt and accurate information must also be disseminated to the public.

Officers will investigate criminal activity, whether confirmed or suspected, provide traffic control and liaise with other levels of government as needed. Depending on the scale of the event, a call-out of additional officers would be authorized and those from specialized units would be released from normal duties to respond. The full-time Tactical Rescue Unit, including tactical officers, explosives disposal members and canine officers, would immediately be available.

Milton has own plan

Each municipality in Halton has its own plan and control group in place, which can be activated if need be by the regional chair, Region's chief administrative officer (CAO), police chief or the regional fire-co-ordinator through the HRPS duty inspector.

The full regional plan would kick into gear if more than one municipality is affected or if there's "extraordinary actions or spending" by one or more regional services.

The ECO includes the chair, CAO, Halton's mayors, police chief, fire co-ordinator and fire chiefs, ambulance director, emergency planning co-ordinator and director of community relations. Regional commissioners in plan-



Ean Algar

ning and public works, social and community services, medical officer of health and corporate services are other important members.

This group would assemble in the emergency operations centre where, says Mr. Moore, "uncomfortable officials meet in unaccustomed surroundings to play unfamiliar roles making unpopular decisions based on inadequate information in insufficient time."

Halton Regional Police Services Board Chair Don Robinson says he likes the plan police have in place, but adds it's essential that the public understand its role in an emergency and do what it can to be proactive when the worst happens.

To that end, Halton Region will soon have available its Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide, says former Oakville fire chief and current Emergency Planning Co-ordinator for Halton Wayne Gould.

"It will assist the public in coping with large-scale emergencies," he says.

Mr. Gould says the brochure is designed to help individuals and families prepare for emergencies that can range from a house fire to a lightning storm or a flood.

It will include everything from how to prepare a home escape plan to a personal survival kit if an individual or family is evacuated.

"It is a compilation of information of emergencies regardless of size," says Mr. Gould, adding one aim of the brochure is to provide a consistent message region-wide.

Adds Chief Algar: "It gives homeowners a heads-up."

When ready, hopefully by early March, the guide will be available at fire halls and government buildings as well as electronically. Other methods of distribution, such as perhaps mailing it out in tax bills, haven't been finalized.

According to Mr. Moore, the guide will also be available at events surrounding Police Week and Emergency Preparedness Week.

Riche to be keynote speaker at Women's Day event in March

International Women's Day will be celebrated Wednesday, Mar. 6 at Rattlesnake Point Golf Club.

The keynote speaker will be feminist and labour unionist Nancy Riche, who's currently secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress.

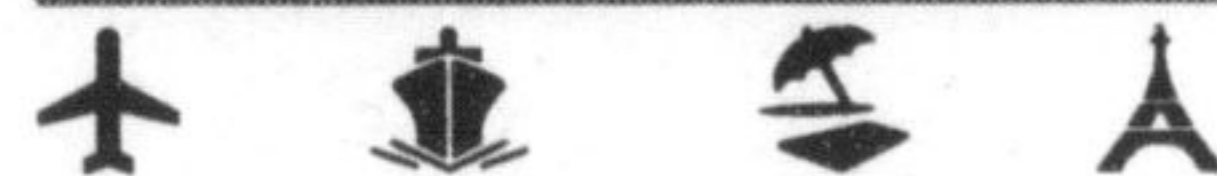
Feminist songstress Linda Nye plus the Raging Grannies will sing about social issues. Canadians in Support of Afghan Women will present an update on the situation in Afghanistan and offer handicrafts made by Afghan women.

Anyone interested in women's issues of poverty, violence, housing and employment are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$15, or \$10 for students. Call Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton (SAVIS) at (905) 825-3622.

Rattlesnake Point Golf Club is located on Highway 25.

In addition to SAVIS, this event is being sponsored by the Women's Information and Support Centre of Halton, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario — Halton, Halton Coalition for Social Justice and the Women of Halton Action Movement.

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