

Public can have their say at meetings next month

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There are a host of other changes around the region within the CSP relating to new school sizes and opening dates. The majority of new schools under consideration are suggested to be built smaller and one or more years later than in the current (2000) edition of the CSP.

One long-range but cryptic notation in the CSP summary that caught the attention of several trustees and citizens at last week's school board's meeting was the recommended closure of an unidentified secondary school with approximately 1,200 pupils in 2011.

Board officials said no high school has been singled out for the future closure. However, south of the QEW in either Oakville or Burlington is reportedly the likely target area since that's the region where a disproportionate number of schools are under-utilized.

One Milton parent expressed his displeasure with the CSP by criticizing trustees about the status of Martin Street School.

Brian Cahill said Martin Street, a junior kindergarten to grade 5 school offering French Immersion, is in limbo more than other schools under scrutiny because consideration of its closure has been deferred to this November.

Mr. Cahill said the bigger problem in Milton though is the revised CSP and its

effects on the town's public school students.

Mr. Cahill said data supplied by board staff and within the new CSP has convinced him that "far fewer students in Milton will have permanent pupil places than in any other municipality" in Halton in the future.

"There can be no justification for giving a disproportionate share of permanent school buildings to some municipalities while expecting others to accept many more of (the) less desirable portables."

He contended that by 2019, the final year of enrolment and accommodation projections within the proposed CSP, 98 per cent of Burlington and Halton Hills students and 93 per cent of Oakville's will be housed in main school structures compared to just 83 per cent in Milton.

"The list of building projects and/or the list of school closures needs to be revised so that Milton ends up with more permanent pupil places," he concluded.

"The least costly and least disruptive way to do that would be to remove Martin Street (278 pupil places) from the closure list and replace it with a similar-sized school from some other town. There is a precedent for listing an unnamed school for closure. A similar designation already exists on the secondary school closure list."

In response, Burlington Trustee and board Vice-Chair Debbie Downs reminded Mr. Cahill that long-range projections are never concrete and that the board is committed to reviewing its CSP on an annual basis for any changes to it that may be necessary.

Two public information meetings on the CSP are set for next month. Thomas A. Blakelock High School in Oakville will host the first gathering Monday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. Pineview School in Georgetown will be the site of the second open meeting Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

Dateline

Dateline is a free listing of coming events only. The column is available to local community groups to assist in promoting their future events. Only charitable or non-profit community groups may use this service. We can only guarantee one issue of publicity closest to the date of the occurrence although more insertions are possible if demand is low.

Notices for Dateline should be handed in at the office of The Champion, 191 Main St. E., mailed to P.O. Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, faxed to (905) 878-4943, or e-mailed to miltoned@halton-search.com. The final deadline is noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and noon Wednesday for Friday's edition. Dateline items will not be accepted by telephone.

Tuesday Jan. 21

Improve communication and leadership skills with the **Milton Toastmasters**. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion, 21 Charles St. (upper level), at 7:30 p.m. For information, call Ross at (416) 953-9413.

The **Milton Community Consultation Committee** meets at the Milton police station, 490 Childs Dr., at 7:30 p.m. The group discusses issues facing both citizens and Halton Regional Police. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting. For more information, call Greg at (905) 875-3663 or St. Sgt. Glen Randall at (905) 878-5511, ext. 2403.

Wellspring Halton Peel — Cancer Support Group, 2545 Sixth Line, in Oakville holds the **Drop-**

in Teen Support Group from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (905) 257-1988.

The Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., holds the **Evening Euchre Party** at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$2 per player. For more details, call (905) 875-1681.

Calling New Parents, a free program for parents and babies aged 6 months and younger, meets with a public health nurse to discuss parenting and infant care. The group meets at the Milton Community Resource Centre, 917 Nipissing Rd., from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information, call (905) 693-4242, ext. 7899.

Help for Parents, a parent support group, meets at Pinelands Presbyterian Church, 5270 New St., in Burlington at 7:30 p.m. This non-denominational self-support group helps parents of children who are in trouble at home, at school or with the law or who are abusive or taking drugs. Call Sean at (905) 842-1729 for more details.

The Milton Chamber of Commerce presents its inaugural **Sports Celebrity Dinner** at Granite Ridge Golf Club. Bobby Hull is the keynote speaker, while other celebrities attending are Pinball Clemens, Borje Salming, Marcel Dionne, Geraldine Heaney and Ron Waples. Autograph signings and cocktails are held at 6 p.m. followed by the dinner. Tickets cost \$125 plus GST, and can be purchased by visiting the Chamber at 251 Main St. or by calling (905) 878-0581.

The Art of Healthy Living holds a **parent support group** for par-

ents of children who are dependent on drugs or alcohol. The group meets at 72-74 Mill St. in Georgetown from 7:30 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (905) 702-7304.

Wednesday Jan. 22

Mom's Morning Out meets at St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main St., from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Caregivers find friendship and support while children are cared for in Graham Hall. For information, call Natasha at (905) 878-5841, Sherry at (905) 878-5976 or Linda at (905) 876-3659.

Wellspring Halton Peel — Cancer Support Group, 2545 Sixth Line, in Oakville holds **Drop-in Journaling** from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call (905) 257-1988.

CARP — **Canada's Association for the Fifty Plus, Halton chapter**, holds its monthly meeting at the Burlington Seniors' Centre, 2185 New St., at 7:30 p.m. This month's topic of discussion is 'Ambulance Service — What's Going on in Halton?'. For more information, call Harry at (905) 335-5717.

The **Halton Healthy Community Fund** presents an information session to provide advice to community-based groups to help receive funding. The event begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr. For more information, call (905) 702-3143.

Thursday Jan. 23

The Milton Seniors' Activity • see **DATLINE** on page 18

Slots cash fund road upgrades

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Of the \$6 million Milton receives from the slots every year, \$5 million is put directly into capital improvements, like roads.

The remainder is put into the Milton Community Fund. A seven-member citizen's committee decides how that money is portioned out in May and October of each year.

Criteria has been established to decide which community groups, and the like, get money through this fund.

Also, some of the money goes to Halton Regional Police and Milton District Hospital.

Mr. McQueen said the objective is to make sure all of the money is doled out by the end of the given year.

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?



A: To live longer.



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