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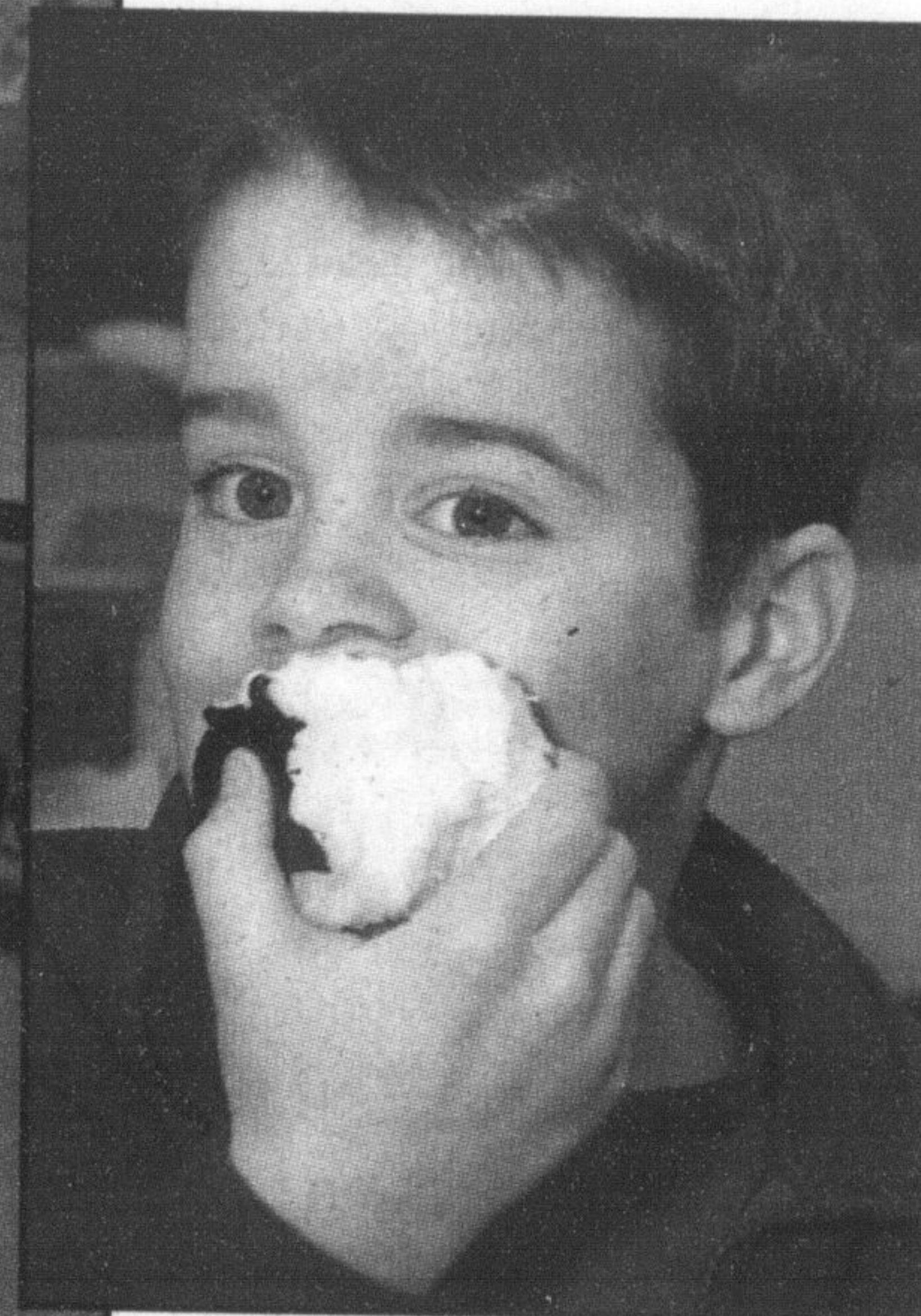
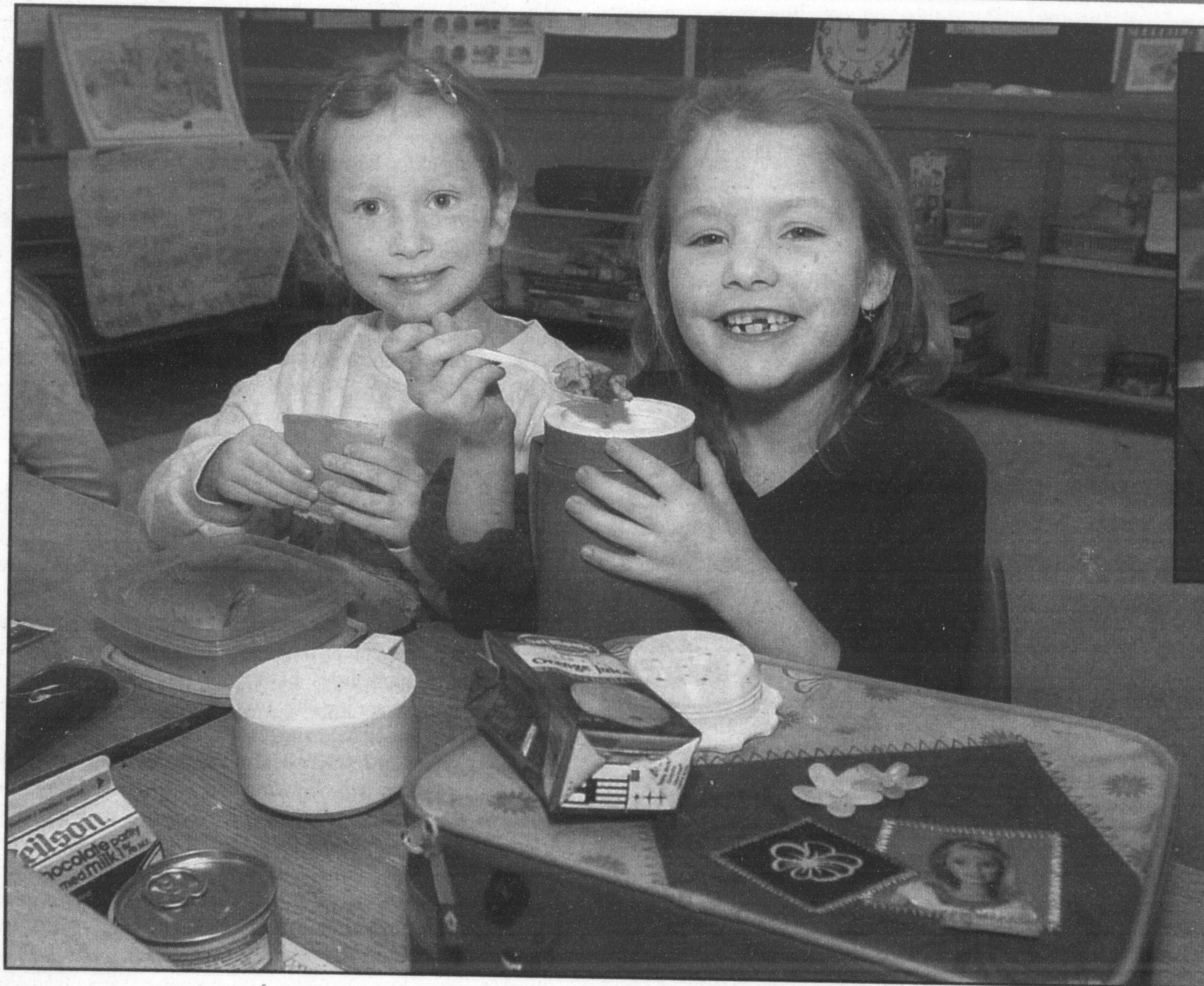
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An
apple
a
day...

J.M. Denyes is one of eight public elementary schools in Halton taking part in an alternative lunch program being tested in Halton. At left, Kelsey Laidlaw (left) prepares to dig into her sandwich while Faith Russell enjoys her pasta lunch. Inset, Matthew Gooding bites into his apple. The pilot project, known as the 'Balanced Day Project', provides two nutrition breaks of 40 and 50 minutes. The change is said to balance the amount of time between children's nutritional and exercise needs and maximize classroom learning time. The foremost rationale for the new schedule is improving learning conditions for students.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

New town bylaw proposes allowing designated smoking rooms in 2004

By **JASON MISNER**
The Champion

Workplaces and public places could allow smoking indoors starting New Year's Day if they instal designated smoking rooms (DSRs).

It's part of proposed changes to Milton's current smoking bylaw that bans smoking in these places. And it's already receiving opposition and some stinging criticism in and outside of Halton.

Milton's smoking bylaw amendment states that workplaces and pub-

lic places can't use DSRs until January 1, regardless if one can be constructed for use immediately. There's no deadline for when a DSR must be installed.

Based on the draft bylaw, Town Hall, considered a public place, could theoretically build a DSR.

There are standards and ventilation requirements to construct a legal DSR. Currently the only establishment in Milton allowed a DSR is Bingo Country on Regional Road 25.

As part of the draft bylaw, outdoor patios — a popular place for patrons to smoke — would have to have one

open wall to allow smoke to escape and can't be completely enclosed.

The Royal Canadian Legion on Charles Street would be exempt from the amended bylaw and could still allow smoking.

The public must submit written opinions about the draft bylaw to the Town by April 22. Town council is scheduled to debate it April 28.

Mayor Gord Krantz said he supports allowing DSRs only in bars and restaurants, with proper ventilation, because it's a matter of "freedom of choice." He doesn't support them in government places, like Town Hall.

Mr. Krantz said he's not overly concerned about the perception that allowing DSRs risks watering down the current bylaw.

What's important, he said, is employers not force employees to enter these DSRs, as part of their job, if they don't want to.

"They should be made well aware of the potential for second-hand smoke risks," he said.

Halton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal hasn't seen the draft bylaw but said the proposition of a DSR is "unfortunate" and it speaks to

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