Blue box program will soon accept milk, juice cartons

By JASON MISNER

The Champion

Halton's waste experts are hoping the expansion of its blue box program that'll soon take fruit juice drinking boxes and milk cartons will help today's kids become stewards of the land when they become adults.

Later this year Halton elementary and high schools, as well as Halton homeowners, will be able to toss empty juice boxes and milk containers into blue boxes rather than the garbage can. All those boxes are currently going to Halton's only landfill site on Highway 25.

The program will help cement Halton as the most waste-efficient municipality in the Greater Toronto Area.

The new recycling measures, approved by regional council last week, will take effect June 1 for the public at large.

By September 1, the expectation is Halton's Catholic and public school boards will be on board with the program.

Rob Rivers, director of Halton's waste management division, said both boards need to give their official approval but have told him they're

supportive of the program.

The program isn't scheduled to start until September because the Region needs to work out the logistics of picking up the material, Mr. Rivers said. Small schools create less waste and they place their blue boxes at the curb for pick up, while larger schools create more waste that require trucks to come on school property to collect material.

The contract for waste disposal at both school boards expires this year and it gave the Region a great opportunity to link up and provide an expanded blue box program using the same garbage contractor, Mr. Rivers said.

By bringing schools on side, he said, the expanded program will increase Halton's waste diversion rate from 39 to 42 per cent, not to mention the positive social and environmental message it will send youth.

"From a social and marketing process, it allows us to have a consistent message at home and at the schools," Mr. Rivers said. "It's a high value program."

Taking into account revenues for selling polycoat – the main material

to make juice boxes and milk cartons—to the private sector for reuse, the residential portion of the blue box program will cost taxpayers about \$86,000 when fully implemented.

The additional costs will become part of Halton's tax bill, which will be decided by regional council next year during the budgeting process.

The combined cost for both Halton school boards using the program is expected to be around \$59,000.

It's been a year of positive waste changes for Milton residents.

More homes are having more garbage picked up at the curb. Milton's urban boundary was changed by Town council to include more residential areas. That has seen about 250 homes south of Derry Road, between Third Line and Fourth Line, and 2,000 homes, west of Fourth Line to almost Fifth Line, get full waste service.

Also, the town's 15 apartment buildings are getting garbage picked up from the Region, some every week while others every second week.

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Help available to assist in finding family in Iraq

The Red Cross is reaching out to help those affected by the war in Iraq—and not just the people directly in harm's way.

The international goodwill organization is currently trying to help Canadians get in contact with loved ones in Iraq.

The Red Cross has dedicated an area of their main Web site — www.redcross.ca — to restoring contact between separated family members and to facilitate the exchange of family news. The site is available in English and Arabic.

"The chaos and confusion that surround war and natural disasters often separates families when they need each other the most," said Marjory Gaourette, branch manager of the Milton Red Cross. "Restoring Family Links provides an alternative to families when most other methods of communication have been wiped out."

The Red Cross has also initiated the Facing Fear program, designed to help children five to 16 years of age deal with concerns and anxiety as the Iraq conflict continues.

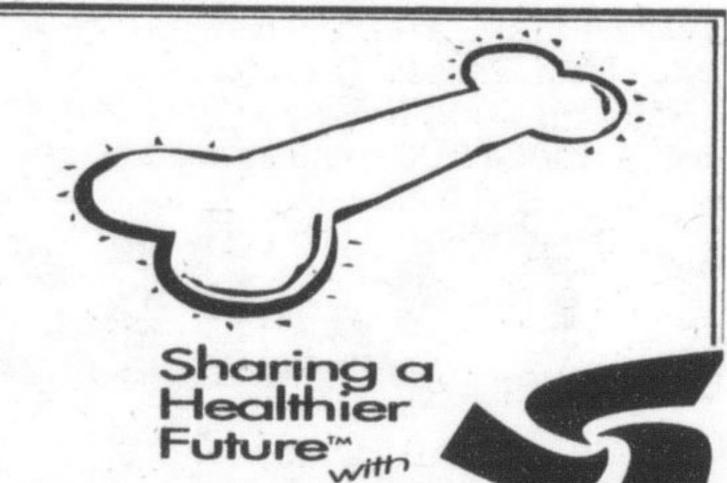
The program is being delivered at schools across Canada.

Said Ms Gaouette, "One of the most empowering tools in dealing with fear and uncertainty is knowledge. It is comforting just knowing how to prepare and how to protect yourself and your family in the event of an emergency situation."

For more information on Restoring Family Links or the Facing Fear programs, log on to www.redcross.ca, or call (905) 875-1459.

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I was overweight my entire life.

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Yes, Yes, Yes, it works. I'm living proof that Positive Changes Hypnosis weight loss programs get real and genuine results.

Don't think I'm an isolated case either. My Dad lost 33 pounds. My brother lost 65 pounds. They've kept their weight off for five years too! Positive Changes Hypnosis deserves 100% of the credit. There you have it. Three people, 149 pounds. Our results with Positive Changes Hypnosis are a dream come true.

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