

## Halton Region

*A Partnership That Works!*

### West Nile Virus Information Sessions

#### OPEN HOUSES

The Halton Region Health Department will be hosting a series of Open Houses throughout the Region where Halton residents can speak to Public Health officials, municipal and industry partners about the 2003 West Nile Virus Response Plan. The Open Houses are designed as an opportunity for the public to learn about West Nile Virus and local initiatives.

The following Open Houses are planned for Halton Hills and Milton:

<b>Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003</b>	Halton Hills Cultural Centre 9 Church St., Georgetown.	3 pm - 8 pm
<b>Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003</b>	Milton Lions Club Memorial Arena 77 Thompson Rd, Milton.	3 pm - 8 pm

For more information about West Nile Virus please call the Halton Region Health Department West Nile Virus info line at, 905-825-6187. Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866). TTY: 905-827-9833. Visit our Web site: [www.region.halton.on.ca/health](http://www.region.halton.on.ca/health).



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## Krantz says issue freedom of choice

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allowing DSRs in Bingo Country and Mohawk Raceway. Mayor Gord Krantz said after the meeting that he has "no problem" with the bylaw. He said nobody is forcing business owners to build a DSR and the issue is about "freedom of choice."

Estimates for a typical DSR range between \$35,000 and \$75,000.

Ward 1 Councillor John Challinor, who said he supports a smoke-free environment, said the new bylaw was needed simply to create fairness.

Ward 4 Councillor Rick Malboeuf doesn't buy that. An ardent supporter of no smoking in all public places, he was disgusted by the decision. "This bylaw won't take us closer to 100 per cent smoke-free but will, in fact, take us further away," he told council.

A big concern, he said, is the new bylaw means Milton will be the last municipality in southern Ontario to go smoke-free when 2009 rolls around.

Perhaps more disconcerting is that Milton's new bylaw leaves the Town open for lawsuits, Mr. Malboeuf said.

Business owners will be required to sign a contract that stipulates that they will have to remove their DSRs by January 1, 2009. Mr. Malboeuf fears that if Halton, the Province or the federal government decides to impose a smoking ban, the Town will be held liable to compensate owners for the years they have remaining on their contract. He said entrepreneurs might say the DSRs are helping their businesses, and if they're forced to close them down, the Town would be contractually obligated to pay for any profits lost.

"We're looking at a potential exposure to Milton taxpayers of hundreds of thousands of dollars."

A motion, brought forward by Mr. Malboeuf, was passed by council to have the Town's lawyers look at the legal issues of the signed contract.

Michael Perley, director of Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco, associated with the Ontario Medical Association, was upset by Milton's new bylaw.

"It's one of the worst bylaws of its kind in Ontario, there's no doubt about that," he said in an interview after the meeting.

He made a presentation to council explaining that their research shows DSRs aren't effective and do little to protect the public's health. A big problem, he said, was a majority of DSRs were found to either malfunction or doors were left open, allowing smoke to filter into non-smoking areas.

Jason Misner can be reached at [jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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