

# Bat found in Burlington tests positive for rabies

*Public health officials warn residents to watch out for bats and report any bats found in their homes*

By **JASON MISNER**  
The Champion

Halton's public health officials are warning residents to be cautious of bats after one was confirmed to have rabies.

A bat retrieved in a home in the Burlington area July 5 tested positive for rabies. Rabies was confirmed in two bats last summer, one each in Oakville and Halton Hills.

A Burlington adult – whom the Region won't identify – found the bat. Because a bat bite is typically small and leaves a small wound and can go unnoticed, the health department erred on the

side of caution and recommended the individual get rabies shots, said Mary Anne Carson, Halton's manager of communicable diseases.

"The individual commented there may have been some exposure to bats," Ms Carson said. "The person is fine."

The shots provide vaccinations and antibodies that can offer immediate protection against rabies.

The Region distributes the vaccine to a person's family doctor who administers the injection. Usually an adult receives injections in the arm while a child receives them in the thigh.

Rabies is a virus that is fatal if a person is infected and not treat-

ed. Bats can be found in barns, caves and occasionally in homes.

Infected animals carry the virus in their saliva and pass it to other animals or people through bites and contaminated wounds.

Ms Carson stressed "bats can be found almost anywhere to have rabies."

She said the Region's key message is that anyone who finds a bat in their home should call the health department immediately since rabies has been confirmed in Halton. The number is (905) 825-6000.

Regional health staff will then determine the next course of action, Ms Carson said.

"If a person has the opportunity of having been exposed to a bat, report it to the health department."

To protect yourself from bats, the Region recommends you get a rabies vaccination every year, that you warn your children to stay away from aggressive animals and that you animal-proof your home to prevent them from getting inside.

Consult the Region's Web site for more information at [www.region.halton.on.ca](http://www.region.halton.on.ca).

The Health Canada Web site lists ways of protecting yourself against bats. But it also highlights they're effective pest controllers, with a single bat capable of eating as many as 600 mosquitoes in one hour.

"Bats represent important members of the wildlife community and should be valued for the role they play as predators of insects."

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

## Further sanctions threatened by teachers' union

Further sanctions against the Halton District School Board will be put in place by public elementary teachers if they don't get a new contract by late August, said the president of the local teachers' union.

Maureen Weinberger, head of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario in Halton, said Friday that stepped up sanctions against the board will be forthcoming if an August 25 mediation session doesn't produce a new collective bargaining agreement.

"We already have a member meeting planned for August 26 and if things do not go well on the 25th, we will use that meeting to prepare for further sanctions," Ms Weinberger said.

"Of course, we are hopeful that the 26th will be used to give out information about ratification of a contract as we look forward to negotiating a deal on the 25th."

The previous week the union representing Halton's approximately 1,600 public elementary teachers issued a 'pink list' sanction against the board. It calls on teachers across Canada not to apply for teaching positions at the Halton public board for now.

Elementary teachers in Halton have been without a new contract since August 31, 2002. They have been in a legal strike position since June 30.

"We expect Halton teachers to be accorded respect for the work they do and won't be treated as second-class citizens. We believe we deserve wage parity with our secondary colleagues in Halton," said Ms Weinberger.

"We are currently the only elementary teachers in the province without a contract. We find this hard to understand when our position reflects the same kinds of considerations that other boards and locals have already agreed to. Our issues are salary, part-year grid payment and some working condition items."

## Man killed in tragic motorcycle accident

A 38-year-old rural Milton man died tragically Friday afternoon when he was thrown from a motorcycle he was riding in front of his house.

Andrew Ratky of No. 30 Sideroad was pronounced dead at the scene following the 5 p.m. accident that occurred between Townline Road and First Line, said Halton Regional Police.

Police said Mr. Ratky was taking a friend's new motorcycle for a test drive when he failed to negotiate a curve and went off the roadway, colliding with two trees.

The friend had purchased the 2003 Suzuki just days earlier and brought it to Mr. Ratky's house to show it to him, police said.

Halton police are investigating the accident.



### TOYOTA RACING DAYS

Fun for the whole pit-crew.



**Corolla CE**  
LEASE FOR  
**\$219** PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS WITH \$2,110 DOWN  
FREIGHT AND P.D.E. INCLUDED

**\$17,300 MSRP**

- 1.8 Litre, 4-cylinder, 130 hp, DOHC, 16-valve, VVT-i engine • Air conditioning • AM/FM Stereo with 4 speakers
- Power locks and mirrors • Keyless entry • 60/40 Split rear seat • Dual stage driver & passenger airbags
- Tilt steering • Outside temperature gauge • 15" wheels • 5-speed manual transmission
- Lease for an additional \$14.12 per month and get automatic transmission
- Fuel consumption: Hwy 5.3L/100km (53mpg) / City 7.1L/100km (40mpg)\*\*

**3.9% PURCHASE FINANCING**

**4.9% PURCHASE FINANCING**



**Camry SE**  
LEASE FOR  
**\$299** PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS WITH \$4,172 DOWN  
FREIGHT AND P.D.E. INCLUDED

**\$26,000 MSRP**

- 2.4 Litre, 4-cylinder, 157 hp, DOHC, 16-valve, VVT-i engine • 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive • AM/FM CD Cassette with 6 speakers • Air conditioning • Power windows, locks and mirrors • Cruise control • Keyless entry • 60/40 split folding rear seat • Leather wrapped steering wheel and shift knob • 16" aluminum alloy wheels • Aluminum dash accents and illuminated instrumentation • Engine immobilizer • Tilt steering • Rear spoiler • Fog lamps
- Fuel consumption: Hwy 6.9L/100km (41MPG) / City 10.2L/100km (28mpg)



**Matrix**  
LEASE FOR  
**\$259** PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS WITH \$3,688 DOWN  
FREIGHT AND P.D.E. INCLUDED

**\$21,025 MSRP**

- 1.8 Litre, 4-cylinder, 130 hp, DOHC, 16-valve, VVT-i engine • Air conditioning • AM/FM Stereo CD with 4 speakers • 16" alloy wheels • Power windows, locks & mirrors • Cruise control • Keyless entry • 60/40 split rear seat • Leather wrapped steering wheel • Tilt steering • 5-speed manual transmission
- Lease for an additional \$15.41 per month and get automatic transmission
- Fuel consumption: Hwy 6.0L/100km (47mpg) / City 7.7L/100km (37mpg)\*\*

**5.9% PURCHASE FINANCING**

**NOW OPEN OUR NEW TOYOTA TRUCK CENTRE IS NOW OPEN.**

If you're in the market for a new truck, come & test drive one of Milton Toyota's great trucks at our exclusive new centre located next door to Milton Toyota.



**Highlander**



**Tacoma**



**Tundra**



**Rav 4**

**1.9% PURCHASE FINANCING**

**& Many More**

**NOW OPEN**

**MILTON TOYOTA**

400 Steeles Avenue 905 875-1700  
[www.milontoyota.com](http://www.milontoyota.com)