


Centre to be focal point for deaf community

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 all over Halton and as far away as Orangeville and Kitchener/Waterloo, will build job skills, take part in job training and learn basic English, math and computer skills.

the deaf community, such as making way for deaf individuals to teach.

Those involved in the project gathered Thursday at the Grand Chalet for a luncheon to celebrate the centre and discuss the successes so far of BRAD.

"This town was open and welcoming." BRAD currently offers a variety of programs in Milton, including respite for care-

"We're very happy that this project is nearing completion and will serve the needs of our deaf community," Ward 2 Councillor Mark Curtis said. "The deaf community makes up a very big part of our entire Milton community."

He added that his father-in-law, who's legally deaf, has made him more aware of the needs and concerns of the hearing impaired.

BRAD Executive Director Brad Saunders noted the day centre will allow them to double the number of clients they serve. "It will really become a focal point for the deaf community," he said.

He pointed out that there's very limited options for deaf students after they graduate, so through the centre, they're trying to change that trend and make after-school life just as exciting.

"The unemployment rate for the deaf is really unfair," he said.

Local residents who aren't deaf may also get a chance to take advantage of the day centre, as Ms Chambers said they could be offering banquet facilities and sign language classes to the community.

She noted they're about halfway toward the \$1.5 million fundraising goal for the centre, receiving private and corporate donations, a Trillium grant and money from the Milton Community Fund.

"It's tough work, and we're not professional fundraisers," Mr. Saunders said.

Rev. Rumball himself was on hand at the luncheon, reminiscing about the great strides that have been taken in Milton for

Organic waste pick-up to start this fall

Approximately 1,000 Campbellville-area homes will be among the first in the region to have their food scraps picked up at the curb in an organics collection pilot project that'll start in September.

The one-year test run — approved by regional council Wednesday — will involve about 6,300 homes throughout Halton. This comes as part of the Region's plan to divert waste from the landfill and extend its life.

Those taking part in the demonstration will be given a small kitchen container for food scraps and a larger curbside container for weekly collection. Additional houses will then be added to the program each year, hopefully leading to a Halton-wide implementation by 2009-2010.

In the Region's budget for this year, \$300,000 was approved to collect and process the organics during the pilot and \$200,000 to buy the necessary containers.

Open houses will be held in pilot project areas to inform and educate residents on the initiative.

givers, foster homes, supported independent living for adults and day activities.

To make a monetary or in-kind donation to the day centre campaign, call Karen Chambers at (905) 878-4932, ext. 207 or

(905) 875-4368 (TTY). For more information visit www.bobrumball.org.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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