

# ChampionCountry

## Children's water festival making a big splash



LIESA KORTMANN / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

**KICK OFF:** From left, Halton Regional Chair Joyce Savoline, Planning and Public Works Chair Janice Wright and Conservation Halton Chair Brian Penman announce plans for the Halton Children's Water Festival.

### Kelso to host event in September

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Local politicians made a splash recently to officially launch the first Halton Children's Water Festival.

Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline and water festival honorary co-chairs Brian Penman — a Milton councillor and Conservation Halton board chair — and Oakville Councillor Janice Wright came together at the festival site, Kelso Conservation Area, to try out an interactive water display and kick off the event that'll be held in September.

"This initiative is a wonderful way to educate our youth as to the importance of conserving water," said Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline. "By teaching our children now about our natural resources we can ensure that this next generation safeguards our environment in the years to come."

She noted that the kids who take part will also encourage their parents and relatives to conserve water as well.

"Kids do have influence," she said. "We shouldn't underestimate the kind

of influence they can have on adults."

Halton Region and Conservation Halton will co-host the event, which will run from September 26 to 28, in partnership with the Halton Catholic and district school boards and the Town of Oakville.

The festival will include over 40 interactive activity centres that incorporate five central water-related themes: water conservation, health and safety, protection, science and technology and stewardship. It'll be open to over 3,000 students in grades 3 to 5.

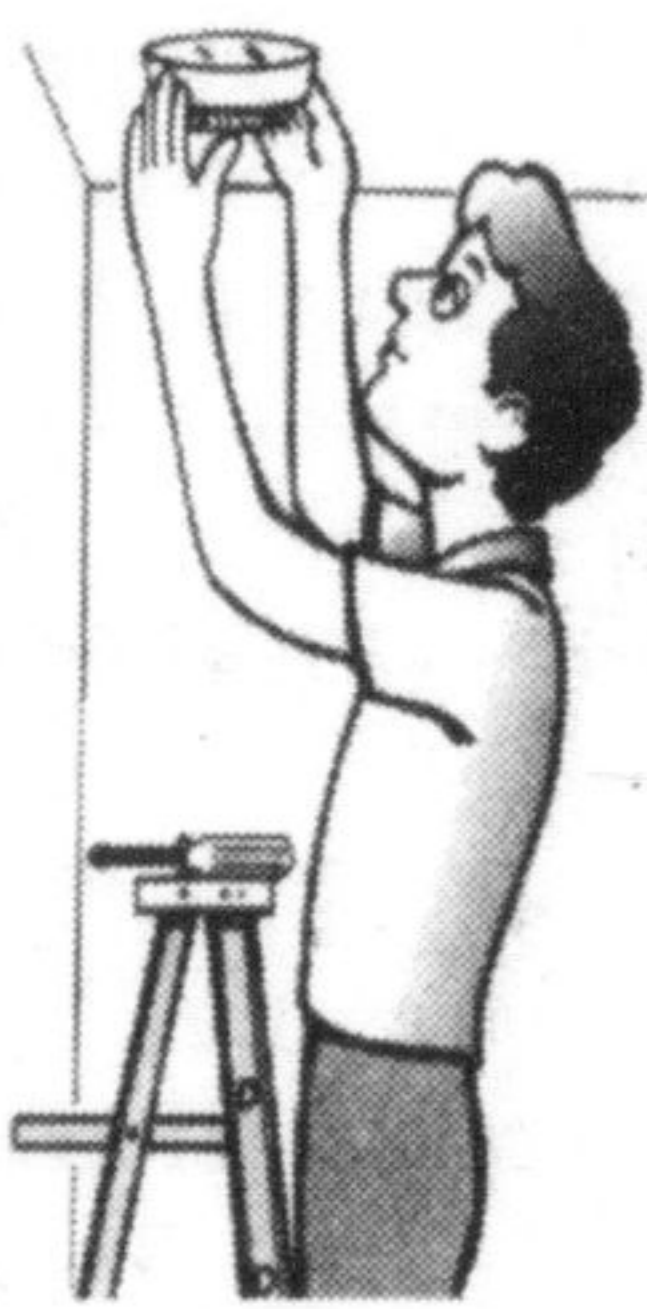
"Each display will be thought provoking," said Penman. "Through our dedicated partnership with Halton Region, we hope to offer an educational experience that will instill a strong conservation ethic and encourage children to be good stewards of natural areas and water resources."

Penman noted that water is often taken for granted and, "Making children not take it for granted is really important."

Volunteers are needed for the event. High school students who offer their time will receive the community volun-

• see **FESTIVAL** on page A12

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