Groups get boost from Halton Healthy Community Fund

More than a dozen community-based projects have been slated to receive thousands of dollars from the Halton Healthy Community Fund.

The recent announcement means $316,745 will be distributed to 18 groups that form collaborative partnerships to launch projects that continue to contribute to Halton's healthy community and quality of life.

"The Halton Healthy Community Fund enables organizations to strengthen families and communities in Halton from the funding they receive," said Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline. "The program is a success because of all the partners who each year pool their resources to make a stronger and healthier Halton community."

This year's recipients, listed by lead administrative partner and project, are:

• Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton, In-School Mentoring North Halton Outreach, $18,128 to recruit and train volunteers in north Halton and match and mentor at-risk children.

• Oakville Sports Council, Canada Games Day event, $2,000 to offer those aged four to 14 a sports and educational experience to mirror the Canada Games.

• Burlington Family Resource Centre, ABC Talk With Me language program pilot project, $8,972 for a part-time speech language pathologist, part-time early childhood educator, staff training, program supplies and child care.

• Family Adolescent Straight Talk (FAST), Halton service expansion project, $19,500 for a counsellor, two part-time social workers, rent, utilities, outreach and administrative expenses.

• Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement program expansion, $15,000 to promote program delivery expansion and cover administration fees, training and materials.

• AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County, Peer Outreach Support Services' (POSSE) development of best practice resources, $29,480 for a consultant, stipend for youth participants and administration costs.

• Oakville YMCA, Food for Thought, $25,000 to hire a community development worker, launch an extensive in-kind program and raise awareness of children's nutrition issues.

• Oakville Parent Child Centre, Cozy Reading program, $17,350 for a part-time co-ordinator, newsletters, books and bags for resource kits, administration costs and training.

• Halton Child and Youth Services, Our Community Cares child development program (Burlington), $12,900 for staffing and equipment.

• Halton Multicultural Council, volunteer parent support program for newcomers (Oakville), $29,928 for part-time co-ordinator.

• John Howard Society, Options program, $29,939 for facilitator fees, transportation assistance, kits, training, resources and marketing materials for initiative aimed to increase early identification of mental illness symptoms and prevent contact with the criminal justice system.

• Transitions for Youth, Option — Reaching Out to Teens and Their Caregivers, $30,000 to hire a part-time child and family worker and for staff training.

• Schizophrenia Society of Ontario, Collaborating to Care for the Caregiver program (Burlington), $30,000 for a part-time family care facilitator and program expenses.

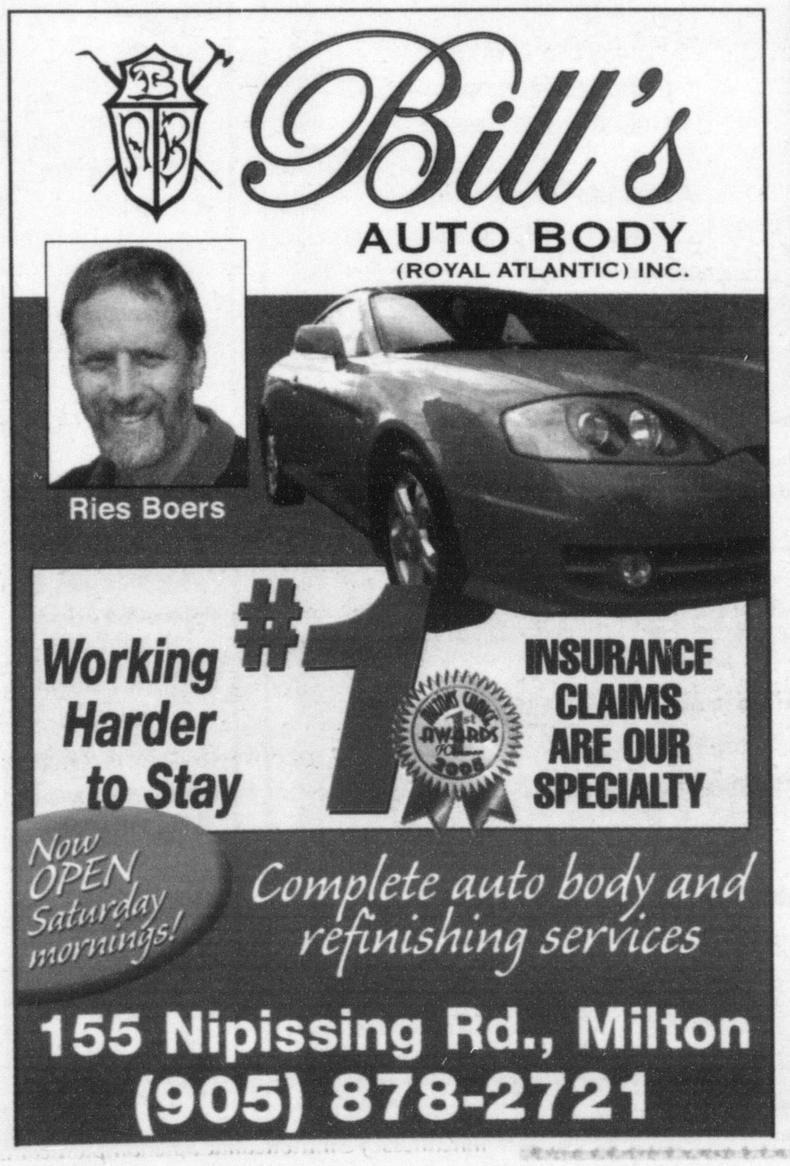
• Halton Hills Gymnastics Centre, Talk 'n' Tumble program, $21,548, for coaches' salaries, gym equipment, professional fees and training.

• Burlington Civic Chorale, Medieval Visions concert, $5,000 for an artistic director, accompanist, professional instrumentalists, dancers, choreographers and marketing.

• Burlington Caribbean Connection, Black History Month celebration, $3,000 for performers, transportation and advertising.

• Arts Alive, A Celebration of the Arts (Halton Hills), $4,000 for marketing and promotion.

• VON Halton, People in Crisis, Depression project, $15,000 for development of depression education modules, training packages and tools, resource materials and workshops specific to depression counselling.

The Halton Healthy Community Fund is made available through combined resources of funding partners in Halton who've been working together for nine years.

The partners for 2006 include Halton Region, the City of Burlington, towns of Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville, Burlington Community Foundation, Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services, Community Foundation of Oakville, Ontario Trillium Foundation and the United Ways of Burlington and greater Hamilton, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville.