

Region's volunteer plan set to go

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A "one-of-a-kind" plan designed to make Halton's non-profit and volunteer sector sustainable received the go-ahead from regional council Wednesday.

The community plan, created by the Chairman's Roundtable on the Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector, responds to current trends and issues in the sector and sets out 15 recommendations to respond to them.

They include:

- Targeting individuals of all ages about the importance and value of volunteerism.

- Providing support to agencies and funders about the financial resources available to them and processes

required to access them.

- Identifying opportunities to maximize funds raised and reduce the competitive environment of fundraising, which includes examining whether funders like the United Ways should amalgamate.

Burlington Mayor Rob MacIsaac discussed concerns he had with the last recommendation, explaining that the word 'amalgamate' raises tension levels for the United Ways.

Oakville Councillor Janice Wright concurred there's an angst when it comes to amalgamation.

MacIsaac then put forward an amendment to the motion on the plan that clarifies council doesn't support any particular method, such as amalgamation, to achieve desired fundraising results. Council unanimously support-

ed the change.

Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline is now going to request meetings with applicable federal and provincial ministers to review the plan and seek support for its actions.

Halton staff will also soon be presenting the document to the Strong Communities Coalition to explore the potential for partnerships in sustaining the human services sector locally and across the GTA.

A community forum to launch the plan will be held November 1 at the Burlington Convention Centre from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with registration starting at 8:15 a.m. Those interested in attending should RSVP to Lori Kirkwood at (905) 825-6000, ext. 7058, or lori.kirkwood@halton.ca.

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

Halton's economic development strategy approved

Halton's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy has been given the thumbs up by regional council.

The plan, which aims to reflect the community's aspirations for the region's economic future and offer an additional perspective for guiding decision making across Halton, was endorsed by council Wednesday.

Its vision states that, "Halton will be

a region with an innovative and diverse economy built on the basis of its choice competitive location, vibrant skilled labour force, high quality infrastructure and positive business environment where skilled workers live and work."

Amongst the strategy's goals are to ensure the cost to develop and operate a business in Halton remains competitive within the Greater Golden

Horseshoe Area, provide incentives for economic growth and maintain an adequate supply of serviced industrial/commercial land.

The document's contents will be used as key input in the creation of the Durable Halton plan, which will ultimately serve as a blueprint for building sustainable and healthy communities.

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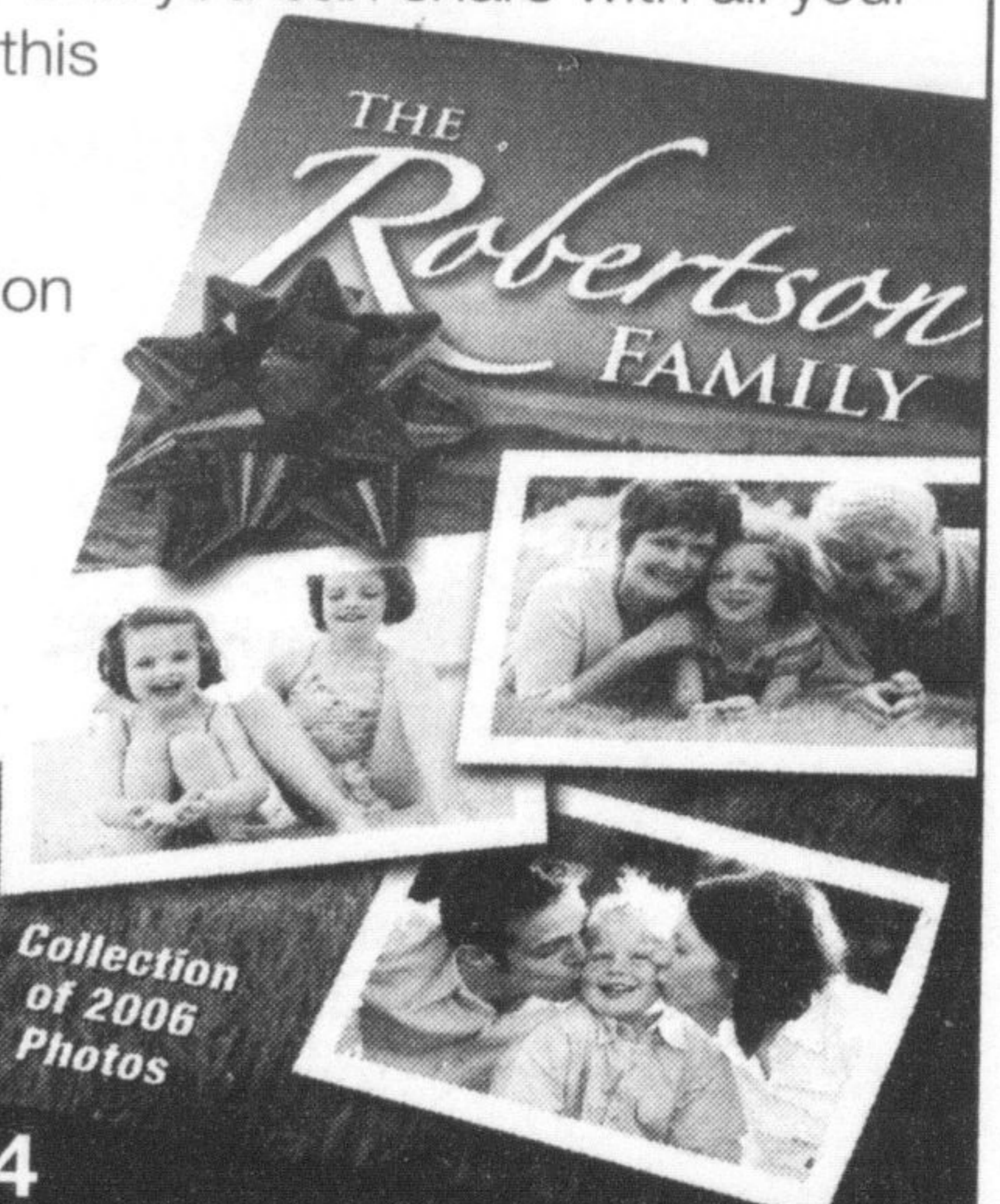
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