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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD:** Hawthorne Village Public School student council representatives, from left, Alysha Carusi, Jordan Holzschuher, Kevin Tang, Sarah Durdin and Kendra Wilcox surround themselves with boxes of non-perishable food items collected by the entire school (kindergarten to grade 8) as well as staff members. It was the school's second annual Fall Harvest Food Drive, which wrapped up today, with the food going to the local Salvation Army Food Bank.

## Worried agencies turn to Region for help

*Homeless programs may close if funding doesn't come through*

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Local programs for the homeless may be forced to close down next year if federal funding doesn't keep flowing, potentially leaving more than 500 vulnerable Halton residents without the support services they need.

That's what the Region's health and social services committee heard Tuesday from a

group of local agencies seeking Halton's help in securing future funding allocations from Parliament Hill.

Transitions for Youth Executive Director Ellis Katsos, who represented the agencies that provide programs for homeless and at-risk individuals, told regional councillors about deficits the organizations will experience because of delays in funding announcements from the federal Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) this year.

He also said these agencies must hear by February 1 at the latest if funding will be continued next year.

"Otherwise, they will need to close down the programs and lay off staff by March 31 so they do not encounter additional deficits," he said.

"As of April 1, if these programs close, over 500 vulnerable Halton residents a year who suddenly find themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness will have no support services to help them deal with the challenges they are

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## Sobeys laying off

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

"Significant" job cuts are coming at Milton's Sobeys warehouse now that the company plans to build a new grocery distribution centre in Vaughan.

The announcement, made by Sobeys Inc. Tuesday, has left approximately 780 employees of the local warehouse wondering if they'll be the lucky ones who get to hold on to their jobs once the new facility opens its doors in 2009.

"There are a lot of depressed people in there," a Sobeys warehouse employee, who asked that his name not be used, told The Champion. "They don't know what they're going to do. Nobody knows who will have a job still."

He said a lot of people who work at the warehouse have moved to Milton and the surrounding area just to be closer to their jobs.

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**ASK DOLLY**  
Dear Dolly, I'm a grown up dog. My humans have adopted a very cute kitten. I just love it, no, really I do! What advice can I give them about Christmas decorations, tinsel, ribbons and light cords? Signed "Bob"  
Dear Bob, Cats are very attracted to tinsel and such. If swallowed, it could be stuck in the tummy, and the cat would need surgery. They could die. Light cords, if bitten, can also be lethal. Your humans can call the Vet for advice. Have a great Christmas Bob, and don't steal the turkey bones, as you could be very sick!  
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