

# Students gathering for youth leadership conference

By Tim Whitnell  
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Students from both Halton school boards will get together today for an annual conference of networking and discussing issues of importance to high schoolers.

The student senates of the Halton District School Board and the Halton Catholic District School Board once again will jointly present the Halton Youth Leadership

Symposium at Gary Allan High School, 3250 New St. in Burlington.

Organized by students, this year's conference theme is entitled Passion for Action. The conference will include about 250 students from 21 Halton high schools.

Participants have been selected by their school's principal to attend based on their interest in leadership activities and enthusiasm for making a difference in their school or community.

The event is designed for Grades 9, 10

and 11 students who are expected to apply their knowledge and leadership skills in their future years of high school.

After an opening talk by a local high school department head, students will hear from two guest speakers, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. In between the assembled students will get into their school teams for a planning session, an opportunity for them to discuss and plan initiatives for their own school.

Neil McCarthy, an official with the

Archdiocese of Toronto, is the morning keynote speaker. The afternoon guest speaker will be from Leaders Today, an affiliate of the Kielburger brothers' Free the Children organization.

For the first time, elementary students will be involved in the conference. Riley Schnurr of St. Patrick School in Burlington and Brittany Hill of Chris Hadfield P.S. in Milton will make a presentation on the conference's theme.

## Hundreds found failing to buckle up

There's good news and there's bad news when it comes to Halton's performance in the recently-held Provincial Seatbelt Campaign.

The good news is that 95 per cent of Halton's motorists are wearing their

## Region giving away compost

The Region is helping local residents once again make their gardens beautiful with its Spring Compost Give-Away.

The annual event, which started yesterday (Monday) and runs through to Saturday, offers citizens the opportunity to get seven bags of free compost from the Halton Waste Management Site, 5400 Reg. Rd. 25, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The compost is created from residential yard waste picked up from curbsides as part of Halton's strategy to divert waste from the landfill. Last year, over 26,000 tonnes of yard waste was diverted.

"The Compost Give-Away program is a tradition in Halton every spring and is a success due to our residents' commitment to the environment and community," said Regional Chair Gary Carr.

"This is a great example of how a material that was a waste in the past can be diverted from disposal by the enthusiastic participation of Halton residents and turned into a valuable resource."

More than 2,000 tonnes of processed compost will be available to residents. Those who stop by are encouraged to bring along a donation of a non-perishable food item for local food banks. Cash donations will also be accepted in lieu of food contributions.

Participants must bring their own bags or containers and a shovel in order to bag their own compost.

During the 2007 Spring Compost Give-Away event, 5,100 residents came to the Halton Waste Management Site and picked up approximately 2,000 tonnes of compost. They also donated 8,000 kilograms of food and a record-setting \$10,274 to local food banks.

## Cocaine case in court

The case of a suspect in Halton's largest ever cocaine bust will return to court next week.

Brampton resident Avtar Sandhu, 39, was charged with possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking after his truck was pulled over in February 2007 at James Snow Parkway and Hwy. 401.

More than 200 kg of cocaine with a street value of up to \$20 million was allegedly discovered inside.

Sandhu — who was released on bail — will make his next court appearance next Tuesday at Ontario Court of Justice in Milton. The return date was set April 23.

seatbelts, Halton Regional Police reported. This is higher than the provincial average of 92 per cent.

The bad news is 863 people still received tickets for not buckling up.

The seatbelt campaign ran from April 16 to 27, during which volunteer members of Communities on Phone Patrol (COPP) conducted compliance studies at major intersections.

A total of 23,900 vehicles were observed throughout Halton and 1,350

were not wearing seatbelts, police said.

In addition, Educational Services officers worked with students who conducted seatbelt checks at local schools.

About 1,475 cars were checked in those school areas, with six tickets and eight warnings issued.

Police said that although the provincial campaign is over, officers will still be on the lookout for the five per cent of people who haven't gotten the message and fail to buckle up.

## Man gets jail for robbery

A man who robbed the RBC Royal Bank on Steeles Avenue last December will spend the next 15 months in prison.

The 49-year-old Toronto man pleaded guilty last month to robbery and wearing a disguise, police said.

During the robbery, the man passed

a note to a teller, received a quantity of cash and made his escape, police said.

The 15 months' custody he's been sentenced to is in addition to 166 days of pre-trial custody he's already served.

Upon release, he'll be under probation and have a 10-year weapons prohibition.

## Conservation authority gets provincial funding

Conservation Halton (CH) is getting a shot in the arm in its ongoing efforts to protect local sources of drinking water.

It was announced recently that CH would receive \$959,000 of the \$23 million the Province is dispersing to Ontario's 36 conservation authorities to complete development plans that will aid in the prevention of both contamination and depletion of lakes, rivers and groundwater.

"We recognize the government's ongoing commitment to funding source protection planning. Communities across Ontario can now complete their supporting studies and get to work on developing effective measures to protect local drinking water sources," said Conservation Ontario General Manager Don Pearson.

The Clean Water Act requires communities to prepare source protection plans that set out how they will protect municipal drinking water supplies.

The scientific ground work gives communities an accurate picture of their water supply, how it's replenished and what threatens the quality of their water — with this information used to decide what action is needed to reduce or eliminate these threats.

Since 2004, conservation authorities and municipalities have received more than \$93 million for technical studies and to help build community awareness.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Vinyl, Blair and Melodie sandals advertised in our current flyer (ending May 9th) will not be available.

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We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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