

# Schools hit by H1N1

17 confirmed cases in region, but no reason for school closures, says health department

By Tina Depko

METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

News of the arrival of the pandemic H1N1 vaccine in Halton comes as a number of schools across the region are reporting a second wave of outbreaks of the virus.

As of late last week there were 17 confirmed cases of H1N1 in Halton since September 1, according to Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton Region's medical officer of health.

Of that number, 11 cases are under the age of 20. The remaining cases are those under the age of 50.

## No deaths in Halton

There have been no deaths reported as a result of the virus this fall, but there have been seven hospitalizations. Nosal said the majority of those hospitalized have been under the age of 20.

The number of confirmed cases does not accurately represent the actual number of people with the virus in the region, as the province has asked that only people with severe symptoms and those at risk — such as

## Corporate challenge launch on tomorrow

An event tomorrow will kick off a huge corporate relay race designed to benefit eight local charities.

The official launch of the Snap Fitness Corporate Adventure Challenge will take place tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. at Kelso Conservation Area. The actual event, put on by Snap Fitness and Pak It Up Inc., will be held in October of next year.

The relay race will combine the challenges of an obstacle course with the best of team competition and will attract more than 1,000 competitors. It'll be open to the public.

For information, e-mail [info@corporateadventurechallenge.com](mailto:info@corporateadventurechallenge.com) or visit [www.corporateadventurechallenge.com](http://www.corporateadventurechallenge.com) starting tomorrow.

## May to visit Halton

Canada's Green Party leader, Elizabeth May, is set to visit Halton next week.

On Saturday, Nov. 7, she'll attend a party reception in her honour at Indian Wells Clubhouse, 5377 Walkers Line in Burlington.

The event begins at 8 p.m., with May commenting on local issues such as unemployment and urban sprawl. She'll also be available to sign copies of her two most recent books, *Losing Confidence and Global Warming for Dummies*.

Tickets for the reception are \$40 and can be purchased by contacting Doug Mohun at (905) 878-2267 or [www.haltongreens.ca](http://www.haltongreens.ca).

pregnant women or those with an underlying chronic condition — get tested.

The H1N1 virus hit Halton hard earlier this year, with 219 confirmed cases in spring and summer, with the majority of cases being school-aged children. Schools were major sites of transmission.

Halton Region Health staff and the school board spent the summer preparing for another outbreak this fall.

The health department has been monitoring the virus in the schools through an on-line absenteeism reporting system since the school year began.

Nosal said it would appear the second wave of outbreaks of the virus has started, as the number of students missing due to influenza-like symptoms has recently jumped.

He said it's impossible to know how many of these students have H1N1, as opposed to the common cold. However, with a higher percentage of positive results among those tested in the past few weeks, he said it is safe to assume it is in schools in all four communities within Halton. He said there is no concentration of the virus in any specific community.

## Some would be H1N1

"Certainly not all of them (student absences) would be H1N1, but going by the percentage of positive tests, a significant percentage of them would have H1N1," he said.

The good news is that this second strain does not appear to be more virulent than the one that went through Halton schools in the spring. This is concurrent with the results seen in Australia, which recently had its winter — a prime time for the spread of the H1N1 virus.

There, the second wave was not worse than the first, with a very low mortality rate.

"The overall illness from H1N1 is actually a little less than from the seasonal flu, but where you normally see the higher hospitalizations and death rates in the elderly, there has been more of a shift (with H1N1) in per cent of hospitalizations with the younger population," Nosal said. "Although the younger people are more likely to contract it, if you go by the Australia/New Zealand experience, it is pretty comparable to a normal flu season. That's good news."

There is no reason for any school closures at this time and the health department will continue to work with the local schools and school boards, Nosal said.

Nosal said the latest medical research explains why the younger populations are more prone to contracting the disease, compared to older generations.

"It is believed that those born before 1957 were exposed to a related virus that gave some residual immunity," he said.

The H1N1 vaccine arrived in Halton on Wednesday and the Region's health department will be offering clinics starting today.

The complete list of immunization clinics, with dates and times of operation, can be found online at [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca) or by dialing 311, (905) 825-6000, toll free 1-866-442-5866 or TTY (905) 827-9833.

H1N1  
in Halton



# LaRose

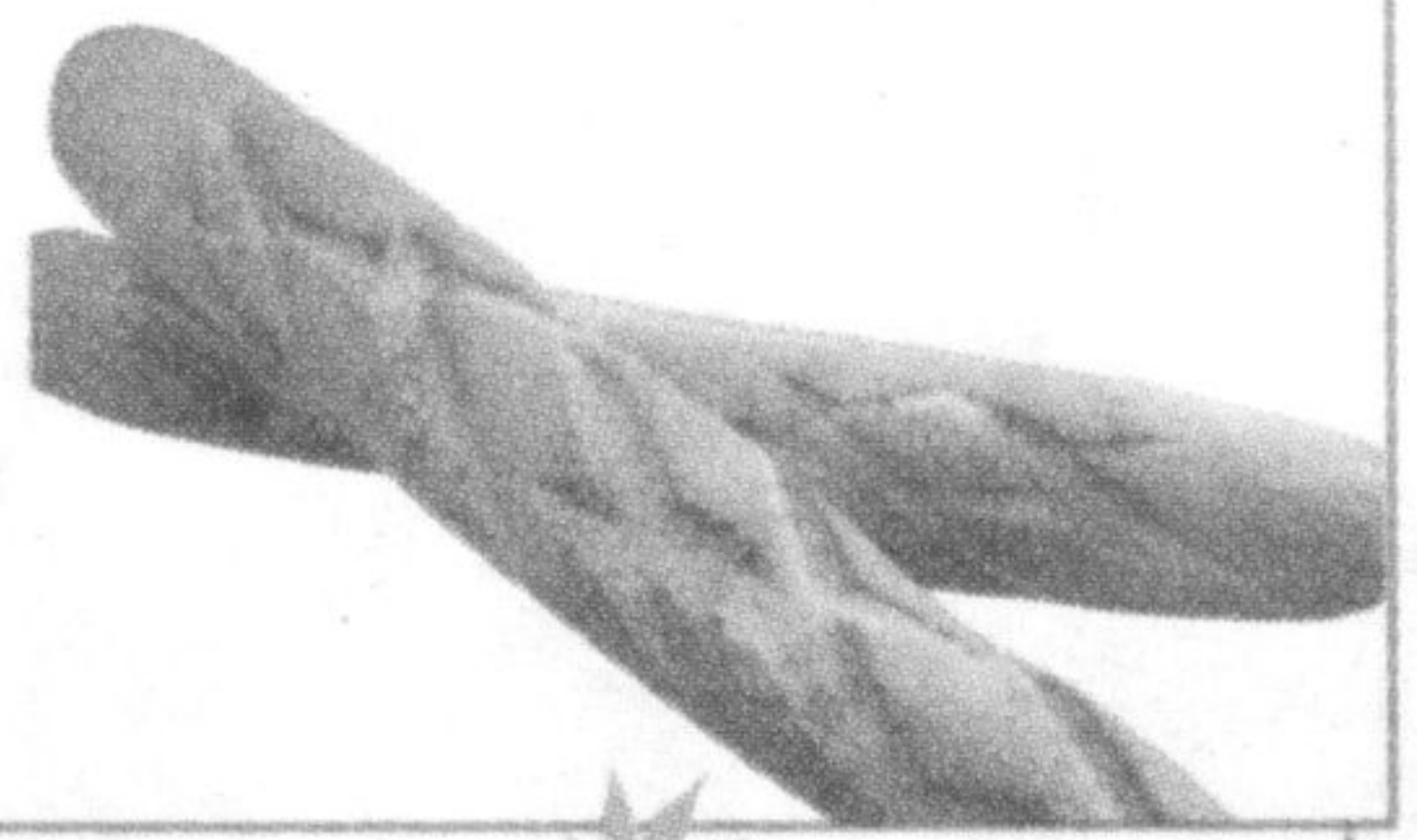
Milton's Choice for  
Ten Years Running!



## Bakery-Special

Sourdough  
Baguette **1.25**  
ea

Bread & Buns  
Baked Fresh  
Every Day!



## Delicatessen-Specials

<b>Brandl</b> Premium Smoked Lean Pork Loin	<b>1.69</b> /100g	<b>Brandl</b> Olde fashioned Beef Salami	<b>1.49</b> /100g
------------------------------------------------------	----------------------	------------------------------------------------	----------------------

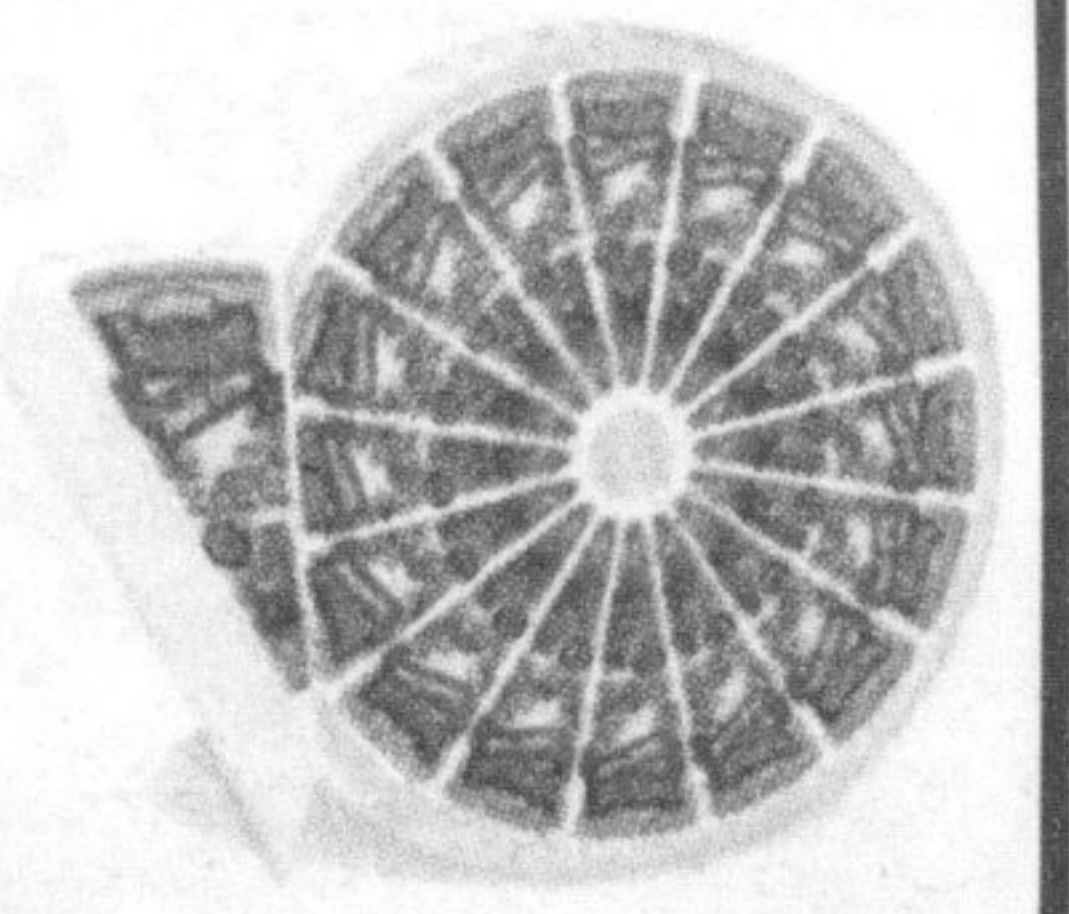
<b>Brandl</b> Canadian Prosciutto	<b>2.99</b> /100g	<b>MASTRO</b> Extra Lean Capicollo	<b>.99</b> /100g
-----------------------------------------	----------------------	------------------------------------------	---------------------

## Super Cheese Special

Product of Canada

**VAUDREUIL**  
**BRIE** **1.99**  
/100g

(regular, double crème, or camembert) (\$9.09/lb)



## Fresh-Produce-#1-Grade

Product of Ontario  
**Yukon Gold**  
**Potatoes**

**2.49**  
ea.



Product of USA  
**Red Leaf**  
**Lettuce**

**1.29**  
ea.



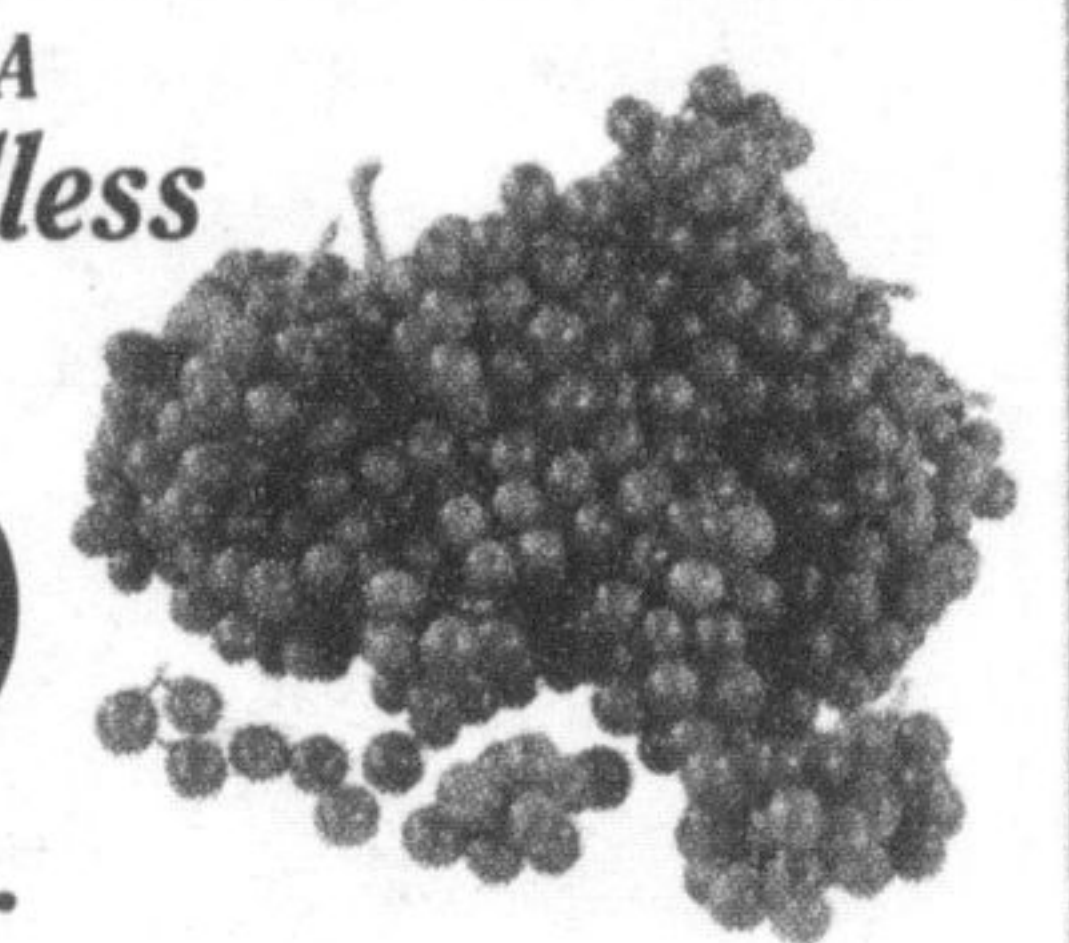
Product of USA  
**Green Leaf**  
**Lettuce**

**1.29**  
ea.



Product of USA  
**Red Seedless**  
**Grapes**

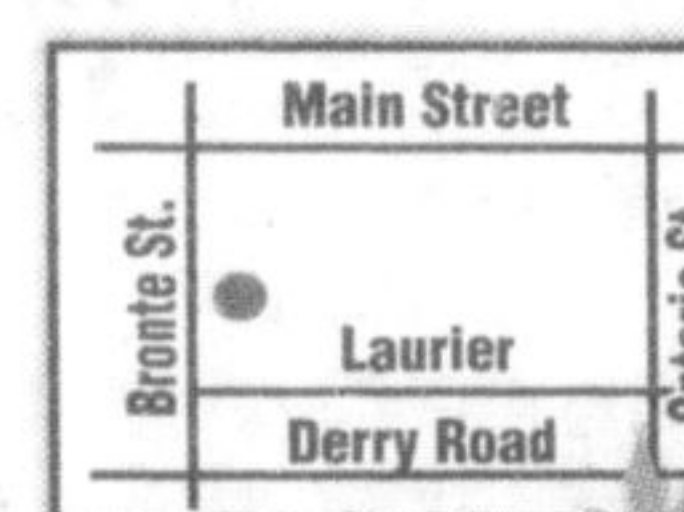
**1.99**  
/lb.



327 Bronte Street S, White Oaks Plaza

905-875-0303 **LaRose**

Prices in effect  
Wednesday, October 28  
to  
Tuesday, November 3.



**HOURS**  
Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am - 7 pm  
Friday 8:30 am - 8 pm  
Saturday 8:30 am - 6 pm  
Sunday 9 am - 5 pm

