

# Reports of teen's death lead to 'stampede mentality': CAO

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Peel's clinic at the International Centre in Mississauga that day shut down after 45 minutes, said Moyle. Toronto didn't begin its clinics until the following day, and those in Wellington-Guelph until Friday.

"I understand the first night in Halton roughly half the people that went through that (Oakville) clinic were from out of the region," said Moyle.

He said that trend continued subsequent weekends because, unlike Halton's clinic in Oakville, clinics in Toronto, Peel and Hamilton weren't open on Sundays.

Moyle discussed the Region's ability to adapt following that first day's clinic and improve the subsequent clinics.

"I have to say that everyone, everyone recognized there was a challenge and everyone pitched in," said Moyle.

"(Staff from) Children's Services, for example, hired clowns and colouring books, and they basically worked the lines, recognizing you had a large number of people that were very apprehensive and worried and had their children and (they) had to wait in line — they pitched in."

Other examples he cited included an air quality monitoring program manager who's now a vaccination clinic manager, a food safety program employee who went to Sobey's the first night to buy blankets and water for people waiting in line, and more than 100 staff with customer service experience who were brought in to work as greeters to meet provincial requirements for staff to filter out attendees not in a high priority group.

He also thanked Oakville Transit for shuttling Regional staff to work, as they have been parking at Bronte Provincial Park since November 2 to allow parking for H1N1 clinic attendees at regional headquarters.

The day after the first clinic, Moyle said the Region was also the first municipality to set up an emergency operations centre — a daily morning meeting between Regional Chair Gary Carr, Moyle, department heads, Halton Police Chief Gary Crowell and other police staff as well as Nosal and senior staff.

Added Oakville Mayor Rob Burton: "I think everybody in the four communities that comprise

Halton should be proud of the way their local government pitched in together and confronted problems with a can-do attitude and immediately overcame these barriers and achieved these high levels of service."

He asked Moyle to write a report for the Region's website explaining what staff have done to run the clinics so that residents aren't driven by misinformation and rumours.

"I think everybody knows we're not out of the woods yet," commented Burton. "What I think

would help everybody's confidence is if they knew how well we are making our way through the woods."

Moyle noted media coverage of the death due to H1N1 of Etobicoke teenager Evan Frustaglio, reported by Toronto Public Health the day prior to Halton's first vaccination clinic, led to a "stampede mentality."

The regular flu doesn't generally hit hard young, healthy people but rather seniors, those with medical conditions or very young children, according to the Provincial website

www.healthyontario.com.

About 4,000 to 8,000 people in Canada die each year from complications of influenza, and about 70,000 to 75,000 people with the flu are hospitalized. In comparison, 135 people in Canada have died this year due to H1N1, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Nosal said the Region isn't sending to the Province information on where clinic attendees actually live, only their age, sex and risk factor.

He said, because of live-work arrangements in the GTA, it's also

possible Halton residents attended H1N1 clinics in other regions where they work, such as Peel or Toronto.

As of the beginning of this week, Halton's public health unit had administered 41,921 vaccinations, third in the Province behind Ottawa (82,371) and Toronto (62,708), according to the Ministry of Health. Peel and York had distributed about 10,000 less and Hamilton 15,000 less.

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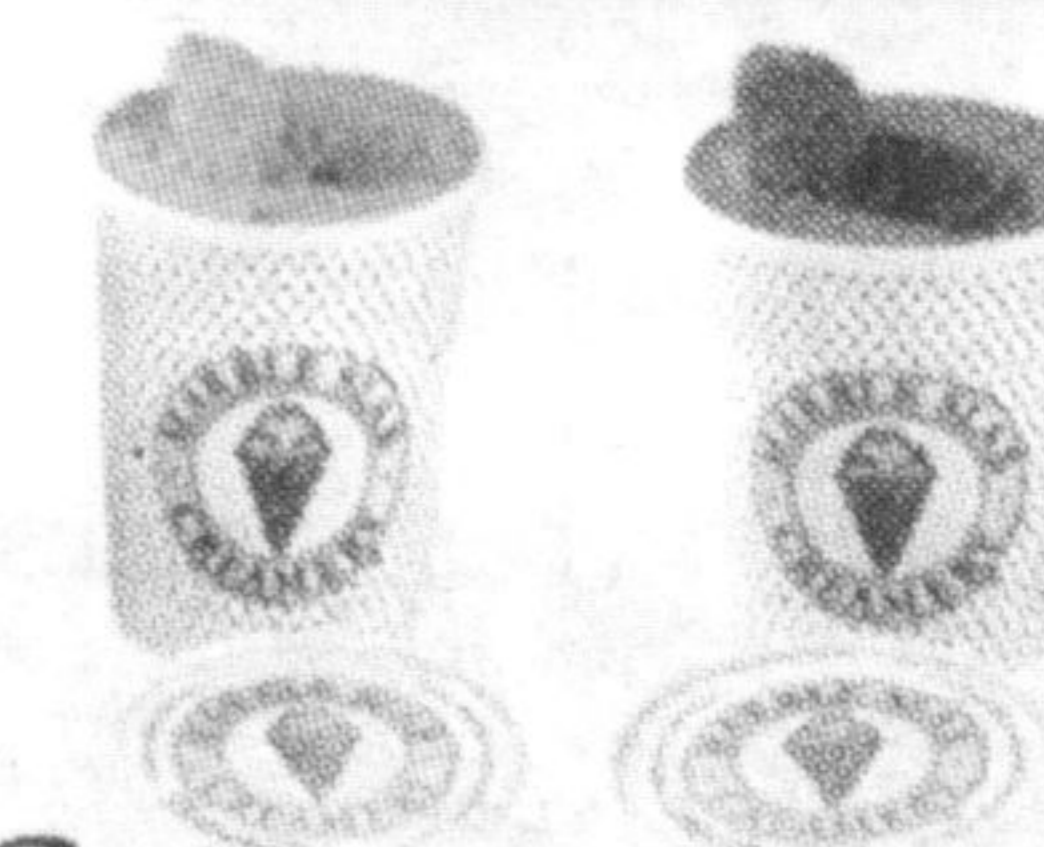


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