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High water warning in Halton

By Christina Commisso
METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Conservation Halton is keeping a watchful eye on the region's river and creek systems following a weekend of unprecedented rainfall.

A High Water Safety Bulletin for Halton region had been issued Friday afternoon when Environment Canada was anticipating 20 to 25 mm of rain for the weekend.

However, from noon Friday to noon Monday, between 59.8 and 103.4 mm of rain hit the region — three to four times more than what had been expected.

"This was a very significant rain event for this time of year," said Hassaan Basit, director of communications with Conservation Halton.

"It's not quite often that you see our dams at the levels they were at."

After spending Monday morning at Halton's conservation areas, Basit said the dam at Kelso and the Mountsberg and Scotch Block reservoirs are bank-full and he expects them to remain full for the next week.

"Because we didn't have a lot of snow, the ground was a bit soggy and still frozen. A lot of the rain that fell ended up as runoff and not a lot of water was getting absorbed into the ground, which contributes to the increased flows in creeks and streams," Basit said.

"At a few spots we did see localized flooding. Fortunately most of those areas were flood plains so there were no structures around them."

• see BULLETIN on page A2

SORTING IT OUT: Several students from E.C. Drury and Milton District high schools spent part of their March Break sorting books for the Canadian Federation of University Women's used book sale at Milton Mall near the food court. The annual sale will begin Friday, March 26 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and continue Saturday, March 27 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) The sale funds scholarships for high school students seeking post secondary education. Here, Milton District High School student Amber Cronin, 16, sorts books by author.

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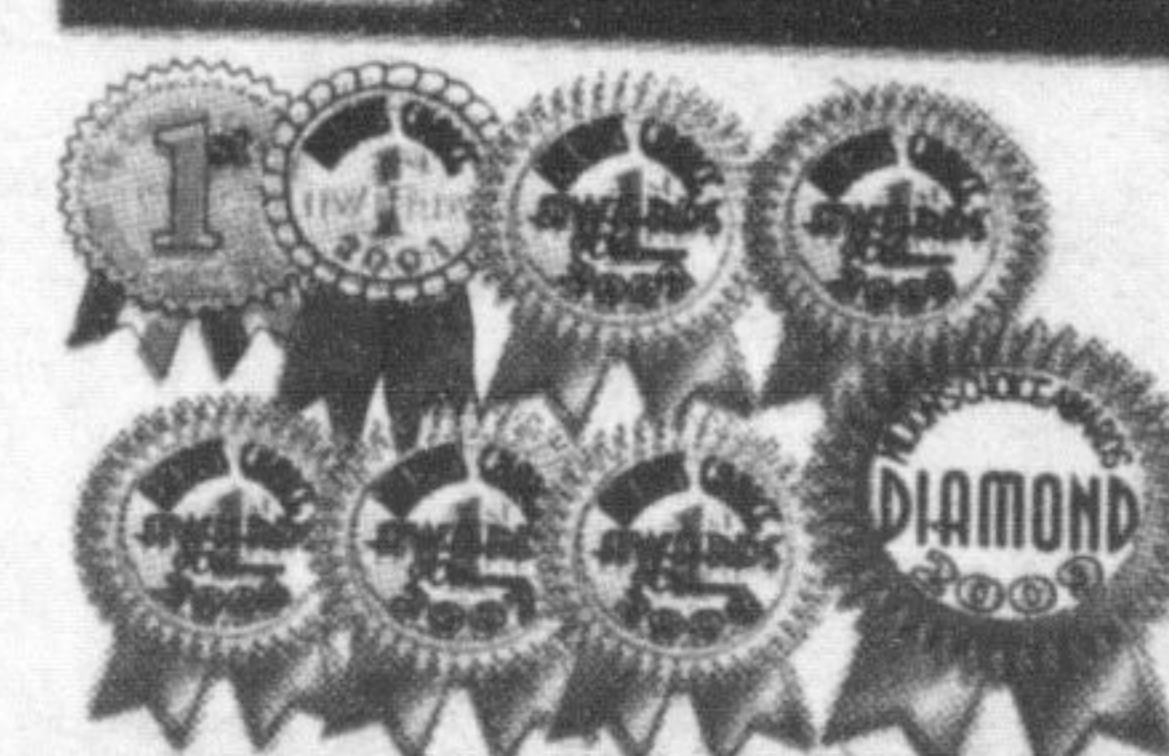
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