

Halton's health services lagging

By BRAD REAUME

A report to Regional council suggests that Halton is lagging in provincial mandatory health programs such as physical activity promotion, nutrition and health information.

Dr. Graham Pollett, Halton Medical Officer of Health, explained that a set of revised regulations were the cause of the problem. The province recently adopted more stringent guidelines and requested a report outlining municipal compliance with in order to more effectively implement them.

The region scored poorly in handicap access, health information, nutrition promotion, physical activity, safety

awareness and certain immunizations. In most cases the reason given for the poor result was the lack of funds currently available to maintain staff.

"The key to understanding the discrepancy is the word 'revised'. The guidelines have been rewritten and are much tougher requiring more staff. Other municipalities have found themselves in the same situation," Dr. Pollett said.

The province is allowing municipalities four years to achieve the goals of mandatory health programs. Council is worried about a shortfall in funds because of the estimated 20-30 additional staff required to maintain the programs.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Native cuisine

Dave Redwolf, a Seneca Indian, samples the soup he prepared for Sunday's celebration at Crawford Lake Indian Village. Native crafts and exhibits were part of the conservation area's Indian Summer Festival which centred around the reconstructed Indian village.

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