



Photo by JON BLACKER

A gift horse

Halton Women's Place was the beneficiary of a recent donation by the Mohawk Horsemen's Charity Fund (MHCF). Terry Sterling (second from left), a member of the board of directors for the shelter for battered women, accepted the \$12,250 cheque presented by the MHCF's (left to right) Bill Taylor, Karen Breen and Doug Elliot.

Fluoridation approved for Milton's water supply

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Dr. Pollett requested that the region petition Milton Council to fluoridate its water, but Burlington councillor Walter Mulkewich objected on the grounds that the issue was a regional and not a town matter.

He succeeded in a revised motion that the region would not petition the town, but simply meet with town councillors to discuss the matter.

Regional councillor Brad Clements, although opposed to fluoridation, supported the motion in order to get the issue to Milton council.

Mayor Gord Krantz, who missed the committee meeting, said in a later interview that "I have been and still continue to be opposed to fluoridation of the water and so do the largest majority of Milton residents. That was born out by a referendum a few years ago."

While acknowledging the regional health statistics on the incidence of dental decay among Milton's youth, he said other studies have indicated adverse side affects.

"Sure, you can have excellent teeth," he said, "and meanwhile the rest of your body is shot."

And while acknowledging the

region's jurisdiction over the matter, he said that Milton's regional representatives can hopefully convince their regional colleagues that fluoridation shouldn't be "foisted on the residents of Milton if the majority don't need or want it."

Dr. Pollett, after the meeting, said he is hoping for assistance from the town of Milton in getting the issue before the public.

The October report, indicated that the dental health of Halton's public school children is slightly worse than the provincial average, and that Milton, which is the only Halton municipality that doesn't fluoridate its water, has the poorest record of all Halton municipalities.

One of the report's findings indicated that 50 per cent of Milton's five-year-old youngsters had never experienced dental problems, "not nearly as good as the provincial average of 68 per cent and the regional average of 70 per cent. In comparison with other Halton municipalities, Acton led the way with 78 per cent of their five-year-olds being free of dental disease, followed by Burlington (75 per cent), Oakville (73 per cent) and Georgetown (69 per cent).

"The results are not because of chance," stated Dr. Pollett in his report, "but show statistically that there is a very real difference for the five-year-olds in Milton as compared to the averages of the province."

Dr. Pollett wants fluoridation in the municipal water because it's the best method to ensure pre-school youngsters — who benefit the most from fluoridation — get it.

The staff report elaborated that the sooner the youngster receives fluoride — beginning even in the womb — "the better the foundation and strength of the teeth that are being formed."

Providing fluoride in the water supply is the best method because "other methods of fluoride therapy such as fluoride rinsing programs are not practical with the ages under Kindergarten."

They're not practical because the health department does not come into contact with these youngsters on a regular basis until they enter the school system. And even if they did have access, young preschoolers "are not able to properly rinse and spit out."

Donation helps library collection grow

Local plant and garden lovers will benefit from a \$500 donation by the Milton and District Horticultural Society to the Milton Public Library.

The largest donation by the Society since its formation is intended for books and videos on gardening and horticulture. The Society's president, Mary Stout, will be presenting the cheque to Library chairman Ian Thompson at the annual Library meeting this evening.

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In-person registration will not be accepted for any other programs on that day.

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for processing of mail-in/drop-off registrations.

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CLASSES BEGIN the week of APRIL 16

Copies of the Continuing Education calendar will be available at all Sheridan College campuses and at Halton/Peel libraries beginning the week of March 12.

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