



EASTER

Many groups are getting into the Easter spirit

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LIFESTYLE

Dealing with teenage pregnancy

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Councillors want temporary lights at Parkway corner

By NORMAN NELSON

An accident-prone Milton intersection is about to get busier and Milton councillors have decided to request temporary traffic lights.

The Steeles Avenue bridge over Highway 401 is being replaced by the province, with construction slated to begin this summer and last about a year.

Plea for funds for disabled van rejected

By NORMAN NELSON

Good fortune saved 11 lives when a van owned by the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped (NHADH) flipped over into a ditch in Milton last month.

As the euphoria at having come through the terrible accident relatively unscathed subsides, however, there comes the practical dilemma of how to replace the van.

Insurance will provide \$20,000, deemed the four-year-old van's worth at the time of accident, but a new van costs \$34,000 — leaving NHADH scrambling for the \$14,000 difference.

The association's first fund-raising attempt — aimed at Milton councillors — was temporarily rebuffed when they decided the association, which serves about 100 clients in Milton and Halton Hills, should first approach Halton Region and the province.

With the organization having been active in the Milton community for many years and with the accident having occurred in Milton, association director John Ellis told the general committee meeting Monday night that he wanted to give Milton "first crack at showing support."

He said it would be an excellent opportunity to show "goodwill." Mayor Krantz responded that while enough can't be said about goodwill, "we have to make sure our areas of jurisdiction are adhered to."

Following the meeting, Mr. Ellis said he will follow up on council's suggestion and make a presentation to the Region. "This is not a failure," he said, "but the first step of a process that will hopefully prove successful."

He conceded that the association could try and buy a secondhand van, but "they're hard to come by."

• see REPLACING on page 8

Approximately 7,000 vehicles per day are expected to flood onto the detour route, which includes the intersection of Main Street East and the James Snow Parkway. Two serious accidents have happened there in the past year.

One collision occurred last month and involved a 16-seat minivan with 11 people on board, including 10 developmentally handicapped adults.

Although the van operated by the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped was a complete write-off, miraculously only the driver — Halton Hills resident Lindsay Harnett — required a lengthy hospital stay to treat a broken leg and hip.

At Monday night's general committee meeting, the association's executive director, John Ellis pleaded with town councillors "to take action on the installation of stop lights at this very dangerous intersection."

"Our vans go by here every day — it's a very dangerous corner," he said following the meeting.

About a year ago, two Milton girls were killed at the same intersection when a drunk driver missed the stop sign.

Presently, Main Street has the right of way through the intersection while James Snow Parkway, which loops off from Highway 401, comes to an abrupt end at a stop sign.

Although sympathizing with families of the victims, Ward 2 councillor Brad Clements said studies have shown there's not enough traffic to warrant traffic lights.

However, given the intersection's past record and with the expected influx from the detour, Ward 2 councillor Mary Long said "let's hit them for it (the traffic lights) now."

Public works director John Matthews explained that while the region has identified a future need for lights at the intersection, it's not in their present five-year plan.

"With the detour, they may address it sooner," he said. "I can't answer that today."

He added that a study conducted jointly by the Region and police has resulted in a number of steps to improve safety at the intersection.

• see TRAFFIC on page 8



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Now that's egg-citing

Could a visit from the Easter Bunny be anything but? Not for (left to right) Callin Drijber, 5, and brothers Daniel, 3, and Lukas, 2. The trio ran into their furry friend at Halton Centennial Manor's Easter Bonnet Bazaar. The bunny brought along treats for visiting kids.

School board taxes to rise 14.6%

By PAUL MITCHISON
Special to the Champion

Homeowners throughout Halton are facing a whopping tax hike now that the Halton Board of Education has all but finalized its budget.

The public school board portion of the average property tax bill will rise \$143 this year, up 14.6 per cent. That's based on a typical single family home which carries an assessed value of \$6,500.

Education trustees were quick to

criticize the provincial government during Thursday night's special budget meeting.

Trustees blasted the Ministry of Education because grants have dropped to a level where they cover only 26.8 per cent of Halton's \$253 million budget (down from 29.4 per cent in 1989), and only increased 2.4 per cent from last year.

Because of this change, school taxes will go up 14.6 per cent this year even though the board's actual

projected spending increase is slightly lower at 12.6 per cent.

Burlington trustee Don Cassidy voted against the education tax hike, and warned that serious cutbacks are needed to reduce property tax increases, which are more than double the rate of inflation.

"We cannot continue to blame senior levels of government," said Mr. Cassidy. "We are going to have to live with it and get on with it."

Board director Bob Williams said given increased demands by the education ministry, the rate of increase is "nowhere near reasonable."

Board chair Pat Hillhouse was angry about provincial grant levels, and said it's time for trustees to hold meetings to get public input about where the board should make cuts.

"We're basically looking at drawing back the service," she said, "and keeping the school system of tomorrow very much as it is today."

Trustees also blamed the province for not allowing school boards instant access to education taxes collected by their municipalities.

Sportsmen serving up breakfast

The Halton Sportsman's Club won't exactly serve you breakfast in bed, but they'll do the next best thing.

They'll serve up a hearty meal at a reasonable price that you can feel good about because the proceeds go to charity.

On Saturday, April 21 the sportsmen are holding their annual charity breakfast at the club, on Steeles Avenue atop the Niagara Escarpment. Breakfast for adults is \$3.50 and only \$2.50 for children. This year the club's designated charity is Milton District Hospital.



INSIDE: POLICE 2, DATELINE LS4-5, CLASSIFIED 19-23, REAL ESTATE RE1-RE16