



### Tough talk

Actors Elly Jo Dolan and Ryan Mimmagh rehearse a scene from *The Rules*, one of seven mini-plays on Friday and Saturday, April 18-19, at Milton District High School, beginning at 8 p.m.

Photo by  
Graham Paine

## Playground safety session in Oakville

Every year, thousands of youngsters, swinging from suspended bars and sliding down rubber tubes, gravitate to school, daycare, and public playgrounds.

How does safety factor into playground design and maintenance? What measures can be taken to prevent playground accidents?

These and several other issues will be explored during a May 8 conference in Oakville.

The event will include an extensive half-day information session targeted at professionals interested in playground safety and an open forum for concerned parents in the evening.

Hosted by the Community Childcare Enrichment Committee, Halton Region, the Town of Oakville and the City of Burlington, the Playground Safety Conference was intentionally timed to coincide with a spring-time return to outdoor play, said conference convener Diane Ayliffe.

"For public health practitioners, parks and recreation administrators, educators, child care service providers, parents and those involved in community sports and recreation facility management, this conference will provide important information about playground equipment safety, how to prevent injury and reduce liability.

Ms Ayliffe said she expects delegates from across Ontario. "We've assembled a team of expert speakers. Topics on the agenda include playground surface treatments, inspection, evaluation and budgets, playground design, proper use of equipment and a keynote address from Victor Hergott, a leading authority on playground equipment safety."

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