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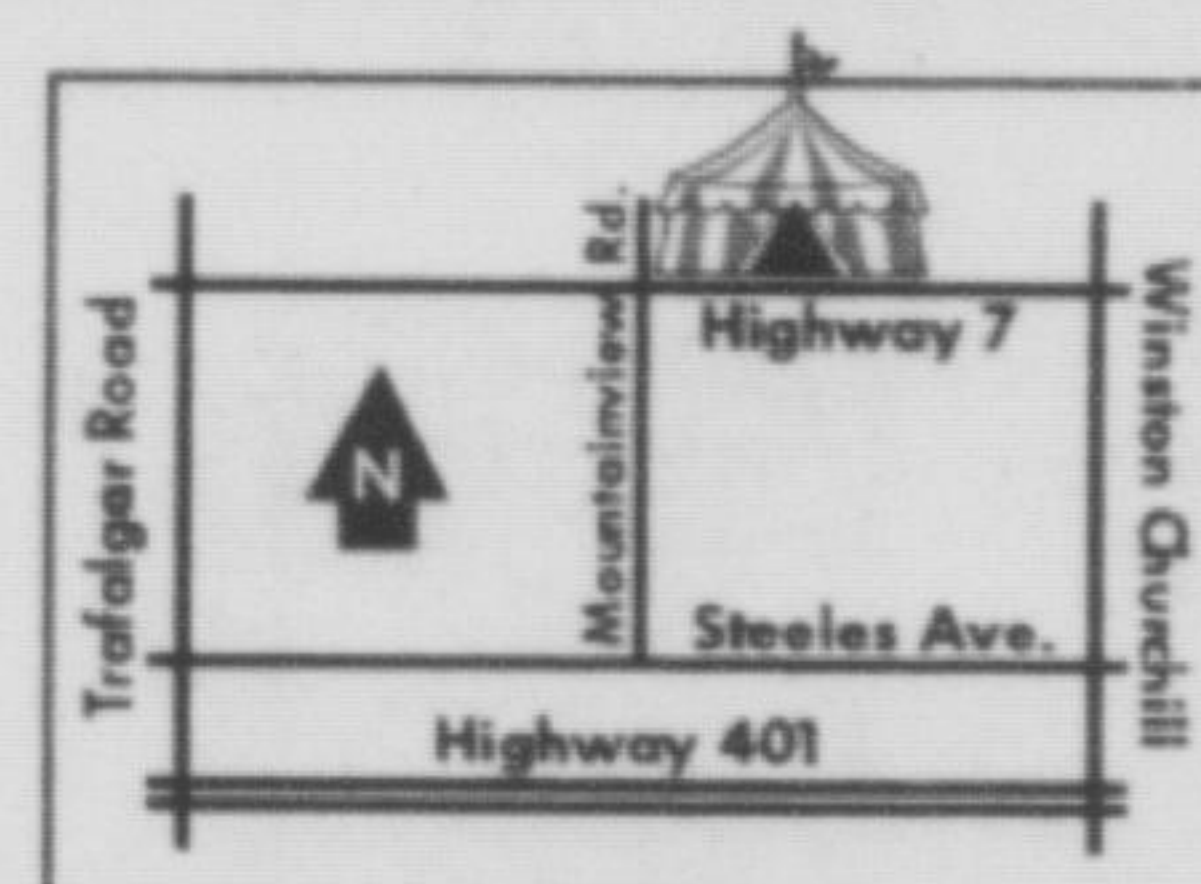
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**Wi-Fi will stay in Halton's public schools — for now**

By Bob Mitchell  
 SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Wi-Fi will remain in all Halton public schools after a bid to have it limited for some elementary students, and banned outright for others, was shot down.

Trustees will continue to monitor the health risks as new information is revealed by world and Canadian health experts.

However, for now the majority of trustees believe there aren't any risks associated with electromagnetic effects of wireless use in schools.

"I'm more concerned about the harm that turning off Wi-Fi will do to our children than turning it on," Oakville trustee Don Vrooman said at last week's Halton District School Board (HDSB) meeting.

"How much harm will we do by failing to prepare our students to be leaders in the world where these are the very tools they will need?"

Some studies have suggested a possible link between Wi-Fi use and a variety of symptoms

such as dermatological redness, tingling and burning sensation, as well as fatigue, tiredness, difficulty concentrating, nausea, heart palpitations and digestive problems.

Milton trustee Nancy MacNeill urged her peers to limit the use of Wi-Fi in elementary schools as a precautionary move, insisting there isn't enough evidence either way right now to prove whether Wi-Fi is safe or not, especially for children.

"We are neither scientists nor health care professionals and with all due respect, I don't believe anybody in this room is qualified to decide whether it's safe or dangerous," said MacNeill, whose motion was defeated 9-1.

Under her proposal, Wi-Fi would be limited to 90 minutes each day for most students and banned outright for the youngest students and those with learning disabilities.

MacNeill wanted Wi-Fi to be turned on for only the first 45 minutes and the last 45 minutes of each day at every school.

The trustee also wanted it turned off completely in areas where JK, SK and Grade 1 students are being taught, as well as where

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