

Financially-stable Region maintains AAA credit rating

For the 28th consecutive year, Halton Region has maintained its AAA credit rating. S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed the ranking, outlining in its rating analysis Halton has a stable financial outlook.

The analysis follows a reaffirmation of the Region's top AAA rating by Moody's Investors Service in January.

"Consistently earning a AAA credit rating is a rare and significant achievement that helps us maximize investment in Halton's future,"

Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr stated in a media release. "While difficult economic times have caused many other Canadian jurisdictions to lose their AAA credit rating, our commitment to being a transparent, accountable and fiscally responsible government has allowed us to maintain our strong long-term financial position."

The AAA credit rating allows Halton Region, as well as its four local municipalities (Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Halton Hills),

to finance major infrastructure and community projects at the lowest possible long-term costs by providing continued access to the best capital financing rates available.

S&P's rating analysis outlined credit strengths for Halton as the basis of its decision.

It said Halton has:

- a strong, diverse and well-integrated local economy;
- excellent financial management policies, annual budget documents and independent-

ly audited financial reports;

- stable long-term budget performance with a low debt burden; and
- exceptional access to liquid funds for refinancing needs.

Regional council renewed its commitment to preserving this rating with the approval of its 2017 budget direction report last month.

For more about the Region of Halton's financial position, visit online at www.halton.ca/budget.

Kids rule this weekend at Conservation Halton parks

Hey kids, if it's variety of outdoor fun you're seeking this weekend, Conservation Halton is just the ticket.

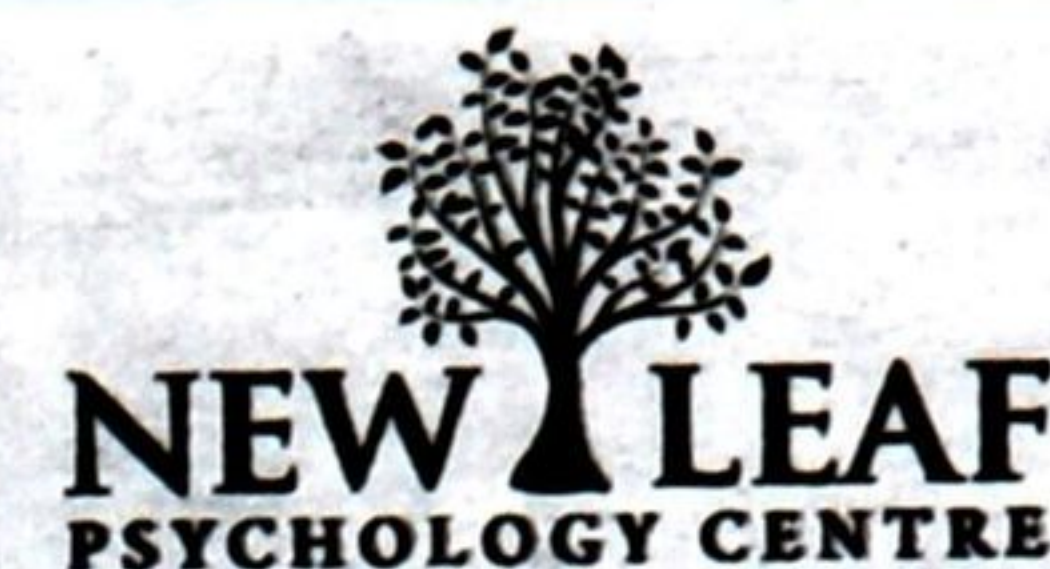
Back by popular demand at Crawford Lake and Mountsberg is 'Amazing Things To Do Before You Are 12'.

Adopted from Richard Louv's ground-breaking book *Last Child in the Woods* — to combat a growing sedentary lifestyle among North American youth — Conservation Halton weekend features a wide range of activity.

Park visitors can learn to make a nest like a bird, create pottery, test their hand at archery, build a fort, and much more.

Event time

The event runs Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is free with park admission. Crawford Lake is located at 3115 Conservation Rd., at the corner of Guelph Line and Conservation Road, while Mountsberg is located on Milborough Line.



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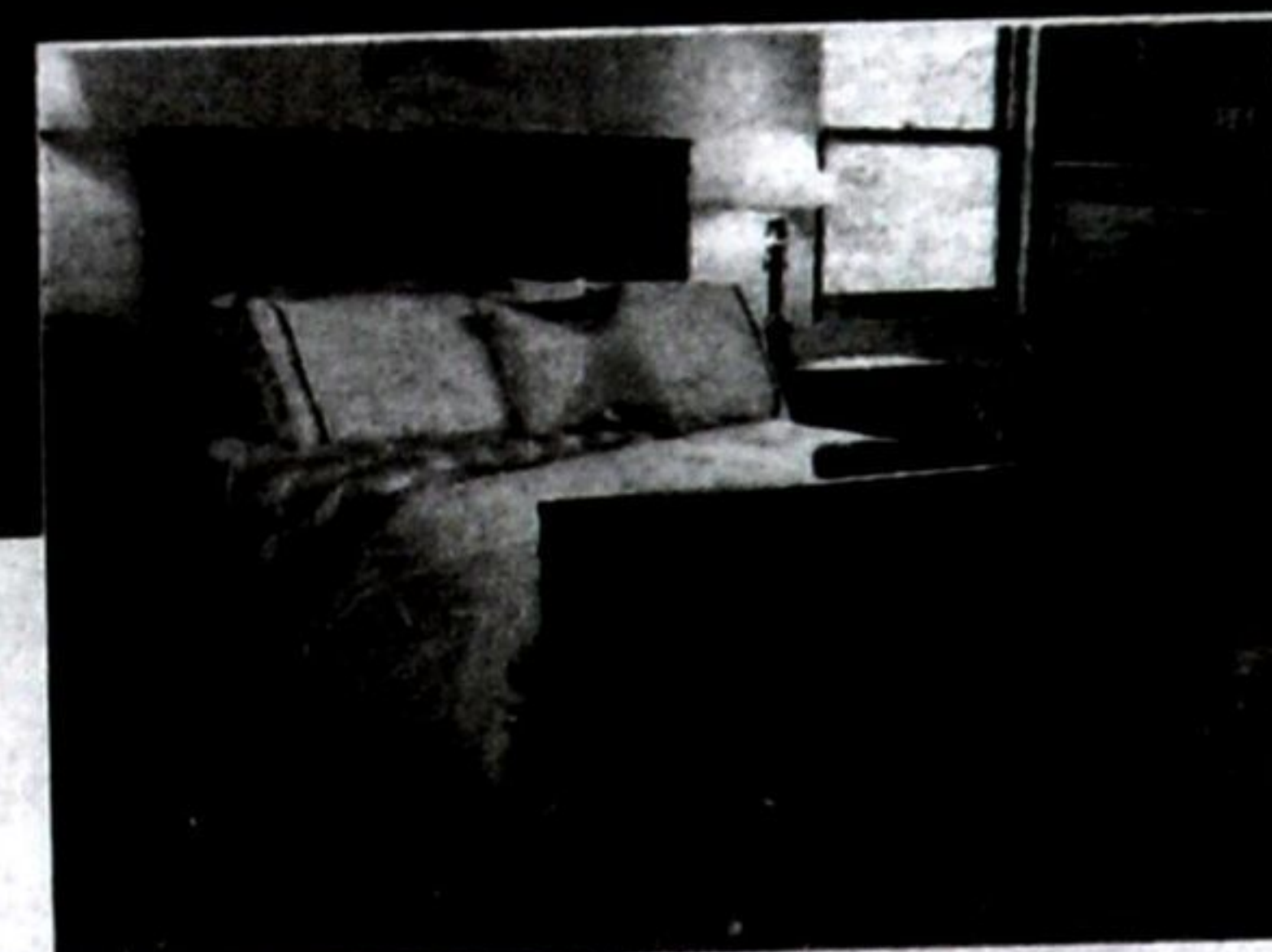
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