



Hawthorne Village Public School students Cara Smith (left) and Olivia Morrison show off their project during the school's A Night of Truth and Reconciliation event Jan. 12. *Julie Slack / Canadian Champion*

Students explore issues affecting Canada's indigenous communities

By Julie Slack
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

For the 105 Grade 7 students at Hawthorne Village Public School, indigenous people have never been better understood.

The four classes capped a successful study unit with an assembly for parents and friends last Thursday night.

Even Mayor Gord Krantz came away with a list of ideas for ways that Milton Council can help ensure that indigenous people are not forgotten in this town.

For parents and guests, it was an eye-opening evening called 'A Night of Truth and Reconciliation' that saw the students become the educators with a vast amount of knowledge

they were more than willing to share. Through spoken word, song, dance and rants, they were able to pass on some of the valuable facts and insights they uncovered through independent projects over the past several months.

The students spoke about the fact that aboriginal people had been forced from their homes, placed in foster homes and sent to residential schools, where they were taught poorly. They noted that many people living on reserves today still don't have clean water.



A globe is on display during Hawthorne Village Public School's special project on issues affecting Canada's indigenous people.

Julie Slack / Canadian Champion

Their goal is to enlighten and see that changes are made.

After working independently to come up with their own truth and reconciliation report, teacher Shannon Jacobs said the Hawthorne Village Public School students began focusing on answering one question: "By exploring the truth about our history and current realities, what can

we do as an act of reconciliation to help restore the relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous people on Turtle Island?"

Then, the more than 100 students each created a square that symbolized things that aboriginal people have endured since having their land stripped from them, or in some cases First Nations symbols.

During the Jan. 12 event at the school, the students also showed visitors a replica wampum belt, which is made of wampum beads and used to create intricate patterns. These belts are used as a guide to narrate history, traditions and laws.

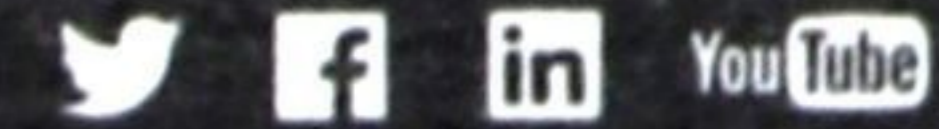
After the formal presentations, the students eagerly showed parents their project boards and asked guests to sign a wall explaining how they might make a difference in the lives of aboriginal people.

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HALTON SMALL BUSINESS CENTRE

Upcoming Business Seminars and Programs

Starting a Small Business:

An in-depth review of start-up requirements including business structures, registration, industry specific regulations and licences and taxes. Offered on two evenings:

Wednesday, February 8
Halton Hills Public Library,
Georgetown Branch
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
\$25.50 (plus HST) / person
and

Wednesday, March 15
Burlington Central Library
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
\$25.50 (plus HST) / person

Marketing – Research and Cost Effective Ideas: Identify why and how conducting market research can impact your business success and learn some cost effective ideas to market your business.

Wednesday, February 22
Milton Public Library, Main Branch
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
\$25.50 (plus HST) / person

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The sessions are casual, informative small groups of five or less.

Every Tuesday
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Halton Regional Administration Building
Small Business Centre
Free – registration required

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11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Halton Regional Administration Building Small Business Centre
Free – registration required

Registration and pre-payment for all seminars are required as seating is limited.

For more information on these events including registration details visit haltonsmallbusiness.ca or dial 311.

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Halton Region's 2017 Budget and Business Plan invests in key Infrastructure

Ensuring value for taxpayer dollars and protecting Halton's strong long-term financial position are the focus as we prepare our annual budget. In December, Regional Council approved the 2017 Budget, which provides the financial plan for maintaining service levels in the community while making strategic investments and keeping the tax rate increase for Regional services within the rate of inflation. Highlights in the 2017 Budget include investments in state-of-good-repair for infrastructure, Paramedic Services, the Halton Region Community Investment Fund, a Long-Term Water Meter Strategy and adjustments to rate revenue and structure. To learn more, visit halton.ca/budget.



Gary Carr
Regional Chair

Meetings at Halton Region, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville, L6M 3L1

Visit halton.ca/meetings for full schedule.

Feb. 7 9:30 a.m. Health & Social Services Cttee.

Feb. 8 1:30 p.m. Administration & Finance Cttee.

Feb. 8 9:30 a.m. Planning & Public Works Cttee.

Feb. 15 9:30 a.m. Regional Council



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