



## Mini Jags wow judges at Winterfest

The Georgetown Cheerforce Mini Jags placed first in their division at the Winterfest Competition held recently at the Brampton Powerade Centre. Team members (front, from left) are: Nicole Harding, Shannon Seidl, Isabelle Martin. Second row: Carlee Riddall, Olivia Somers, Isabella Wilkinson. Third row: Coaches Ashleigh McGuinness, Monika Kuligowska, Erin Burke. The Mini Jags also finished third in their category at the provincial championships in Kitchener last week.

*Submitted photo*

# Last-minute goal lifts Thunder

Matt Latimer scored the winning goal assisted by Brandon Varela with 18 seconds remaining in the third period as the Halton Hills minor midget Thunder defeated the Warren Park Eagles 2-0 in the championship game at

the recent 24th Leaside Invitational Select Minor Hockey Tournament.

The Thunder went 3-0-1 in the tourney with goalies Mitchell Nyarady and Darren Pydych each earning shutouts along the way.



The Halton Hills minor midget Thunder defeated the Warren Park Eagles 2-0 in the final to take top spot at a minor midget select tournament in Leaside last month. Team members (front, from left) are: Mitchell Nyarady, Liam Staples, Darren Pydych. Middle row: Assistant coach Mike Salvian, Ryan Pike, James Salvian, Matt Latimer, Brandon Varela, Jack Hennigan. Back row: Coach Steven Bishop, Josh Jenkins, Noah MacKinnon, Tyler Peet, Ethan Bishop, Jake Nicolucci, Nik Karasavidis, Sebastian Rokicki, Scott Glen, assistant coach/trainer Robert Varela. Absent: Paul Keating.

*Submitted photo*

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Elayne M. Tanner

**Q** : The husband of my child's home daycare provider has been charged with child sexual abuse. My child appears unaffected. The alleged abuser seems like a nice person. Should I withdraw my child or assume the allegations are false and allow my child to remain?

**A** : There are a number of variables in this question. First, if charges have been laid, police and Children's Aid must be involved. If they have closed down the day care there is no further discussion.

If the day care remains open that would be because authorities have confidence that the accused will not be near the children, either because he is incarcerated or has been ordered to stay away. In the latter, you have to decide whether you trust the day care provider to not allow the abuser near the children even if she does not believe the allegations.

In deciding, it is helpful to have some knowledge of child sexual abuse and how it occurs. First, it is important to know that those who sexually abuse children do not look evil. If it were obvious that they were a danger to children, they would be far less likely to have the opportunity to abuse children. They generally are pleasant people who get along with children and are well liked. Secondly, it is a misnomer to believe that abusers have to be alone with their victims in order to abuse. Many children are sexually abused with others in the same room, completely unaware. This adds to the power and control element inherent in abuse.

Lastly, abusers often abuse many victims before they are stopped so the fact that he has not previously been caught does not suggest the allegations are not true. Children rarely lie about these incidents and abuse investigators know how to evaluate the level of detail and consistency to assess the veracity of the allegations.

While child sexual abuse is very damaging, the societal response will determine the ultimate impact on the child. With this information I hope that you can make the best choice for your family.



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**Q** : With so many price variables when choosing a retirement home how do I make a comparison?

**A** : This seemingly dauntless task can be made easier if you plan ahead, give yourself time and ask lots of questions.

Find out exactly what is included in the quoted rate. Is the cost all inclusive or is it for the room only?

What nursing services are provided and are any extra costs clearly itemized? Be sure to ask about costs you may incur now and "down the road". You don't want any surprises.

Are three meals a day provided in the cost? Are snacks included? If there is a meal plan, what are the costs and what is included? What is the cost if you have guests stay for a meal? If you are ill, will you get a tray to your room at no added cost?

If housekeeping is included, how often is the room cleaned and is the bathroom cleaned daily? Is personal laundry included and if not, what charges can you expect?

Ask to see the rooms and establish how the room size is determined. Find out the area of living space. Some rooms include the bathroom area in the equation, some don't. Also, don't hesitate to see rooms with furniture in them.

Are there private bathrooms or are the bathrooms shared? DO the bathrooms include a shower in addition to a sink and toilet? Sometimes the shower is down the hall.

In short, ask many questions so that you are comparing the cost of similar services and living spaces.

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