

## \$6½ million in May — half school

May building permits hit a record \$6,524,668, for the town of Halton Hills. But over half of the total, \$3,560,000 is the cost of the new Acton High School.

Boosting the institutional total are the following: \$175,000 for an addition to the Georgetown District Christian School, a \$20,000 service building at Terra Cotta Conservation Authority, and \$500,000 for the building at the water control plant addition in Georgetown.

A warehouse addition at Labelmasters, 144 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, is listed at \$55,000, the only industrial permit issued in May.

Commercial permits totalled \$1,050,000, with the new Guelphview Square at Guelph and Mountainview, Georgetown, accounting for \$900,000, and a self-serve gas bar at the Petrofina Station 189 Guelph St., Georgetown, for the remaining \$150,000.

A permit valued at \$800,000 was issued for the 40 moderate income townhouses to be built on Maple Avenue East, Georgetown. Five other residential permits totalled \$153,000.

Thirty more swimming pool permits were issued last month at a total value of \$112,923, making the average cost per pool \$3,764. So far this year 53 pool permits have been issued. In the last two and a half years, since the establishment of the amalgamated town of Halton Hills 301 pool permits have been purchased.

The remainder of the permits represented fences, signs, alterations, and agricultural buildings.

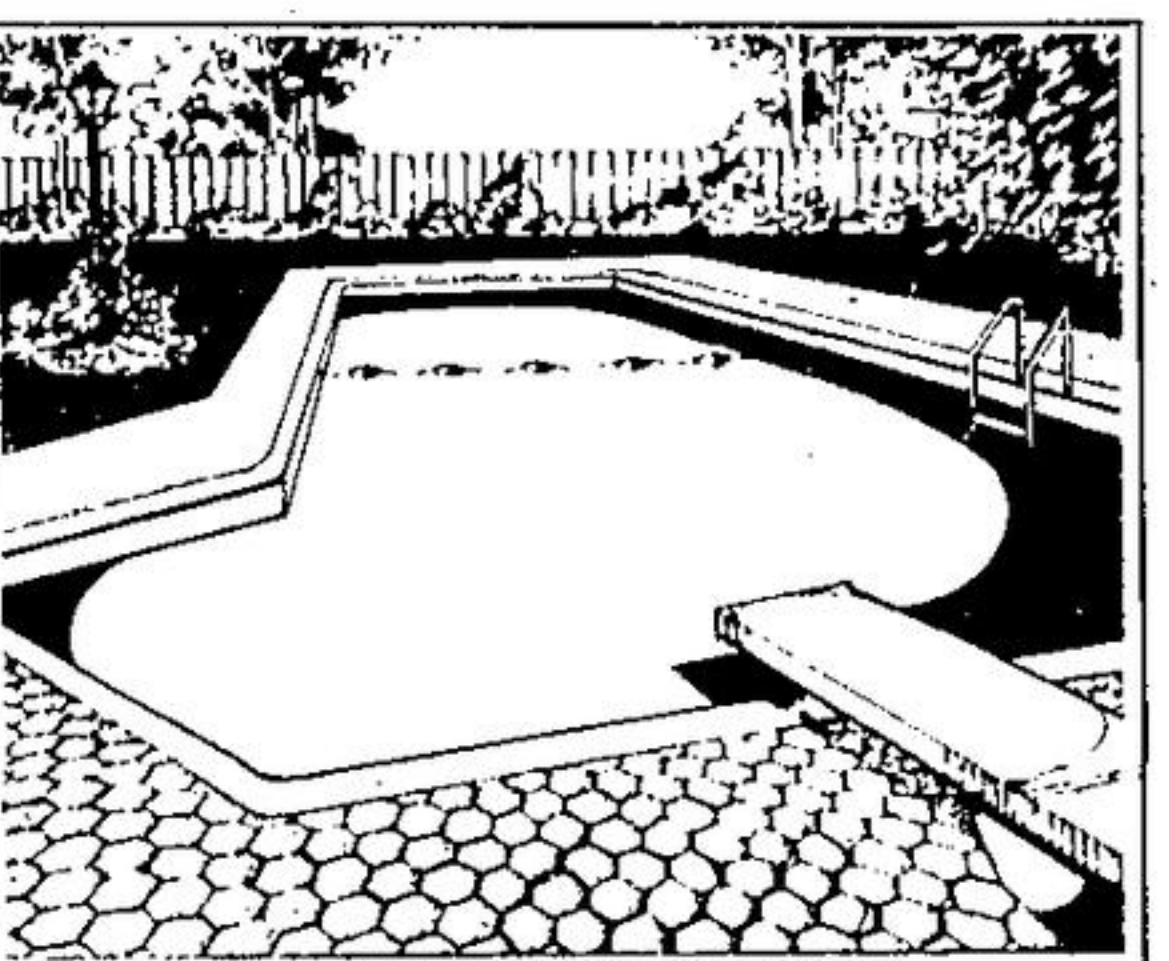
The May permit total was five times that of April, and

more than three times May of last year.

Only a few more days of school left. Soon the youngsters will be idle throughout the town.

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## Flowers live forever in sealed containers

Summer's beauty lasts all year long in delightful preserved flower arrangements made by Melanija Bray, Elizabeth Dr. This talented artist has recently developed a new aspect of her career and is already selling some of her creations.

Large arrangements such as hers are sold in Birks and Simpsons but they are imported from England. Many other local craftspeople have lately enjoyed preserving flowers, but their end products have been on a smaller scale—miniature bouquets and plaques, for instance.

Melanija Bray's arrangements range from ones of small, still life perfection to large displays in clear jars a foot high.

They are unique, and already several stores have placed orders for them. The Pine Chair in Acton has a display. Other outlets are Paul's in Guelph and the Ted Swift gallery in Hamilton.

#### Findings

The flowers and findings are all located by the Bray family, and it's really a family affair. The children all help. Peter, 6, specializes in butterflies. Melanie, 7, is good at pressing wild flowers. Husband Joe, Paul, 12, and Mark, 10, are also collectors.

Their garden is large and has plenty of room for flowers which go into the displays.

But it's not a garden where you can sit and enjoy the flowers. Once the flowers bloom they are picked and placed carefully in silica gel. The garden itself is mostly green, with the promise of buds soon ready to be plucked.

On holidays on Georgian Bay more material is eagerly located, including driftwood, wild plants and mosses.

#### Care, time

Melanija used trial and error as she worked out her arrangements. She first used borax for drying the flowers but now buys silica sand. It is reusable; she bakes it

in the oven.

Each blossom must be packed very carefully in the sand, the inner parts of the petals banked with it so they will retain their shape. The blooms remain in the sand indefinitely; she is still using last year's roses and they are dewy-fresh in color.

It actually takes only a week to 10 days to dry the flowers. She sifts through her containers regularly to test their doneness.

Often flowers come out broken or flattened. They are useless then. Each one must be perfect. In the arrangements they are usually visible from all sides.

#### Construction

She plans, build and changes as she goes along, installing each component in its place with tweezers. Some arrangements take six hours to complete. Often she has to tear one apart and begin again, until its line and color combination suits her critical eye.

Once inside the glass mushroom, egg or oval, the preserved flowers are sealed permanently inside.

#### Artist

A yoga instructor, Melanija is full of vitality and enjoys the challenge of a new craft.

She is a talented painter; the walls of their home are hung with her vivid oils. Some of them adapted from slides taken by husband Joe when he studied in the Arctic. Over their chesterfield hangs a large canvas of a lion and its kill, inspired by a slide taken in Africa by former Actonian Alf Long.

She was commissioned to paint the lively mural on the wall inside the doors of the library.

Macrame plantholders and stained glass lamp shades in their home are all made by Melanija.



**TALENTED MELANIJA Bray** shows some of her new arrangements of preserved flowers. Painstakingly with tweezers she inserts driftwood, bases, greenery, preserved blossoms in clear glass containers. The delightful creations are beautiful from all sides. They are now for sale in several stores.



**CONTAINER OF silica sand** is filled with tiny treasures—here, a perfectly preserved fuchsia bloom, wired with a tiny stem.



**MELANIJA BEGINS** one of her complicated creations, planning and visualizing the finished product as she goes along. Sometimes she picks everything out, starts all over.

### Obituary

## Dorothy Allain was musician

Funeral services were held in Acton on June 8 for Mrs. Dorothy Anne Allain of Mississauga.

Mrs. Allain, daughter of Mrs. Dorothy O'Rourke and the late James O'Rourke of Acton, died suddenly in Mississauga on June 6 as the result of an accident. She was born in Nassagaweya 26 years ago.

She is survived by her mother, her husband Rheel Allain, daughter Kimberley Allain, son Steven Joseph, sister Karen in Quebec and brother James Edward, Acton. She is predeceased by her father.

Mrs. Allain attended Brookville public school and Acton high school, before going into nursing at Peel Manor.

She was a talented musician and played in the Guelph String Orchestra. She also entered many competitions where she achieved exceptionally high marks.

The Rev. Andrew McKenzie officiated at the

funeral service in Rumley-Shoemaker funeral home. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery, Acton.

The pallbearers were mostly her cousins, Jack Doughty, Gordon Dawe, Henry MacLeod, Hugh O'Rourke, Doug Frank and Emmett O'Rourke and Sims McPhedran.

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