GDHS wins tech olympics



The number one welding team in Halton show off their trophy from the Halton Technical Olympics held at E.C. Drury Secondary School in Milton April 3. The team consisted of (from left to right) Duane Branklewicz, Coach Ted Maslach and Mike McElroy. (Herald Photo)

Georgetown District High School won first prize in welding at the Halton Technical Olympics last week.

Four students won individual medals at the games held in E.C. Drury Secondary School in Milton April 4.

Mason Lavs won the bronze medal in the mechanical drafting event, David Porter won the silver medal in the architectural drafting event, Mike Smith won the bronze medal in the small engines competition and Mike McElroy won the bronze in the welding competition.

Mr. McElroy said the competition helped him learn how to "weld under pressure".

David Lawrence, the technical director at GDHS, said for the school to win first place in the welding competition "Duane (Brankiewicz) must have been really close," to winning an individual medal.

Mr. Brankiewicz said the competition was challenging and a good learning experience.

This was Mr. Brankiewicz second year in the technical olympics. He added the school courses are good and prepare the competitors for the olympics.

Mr. McElroy said the technical olympics gave him a chance to show his talents as well as to test

them.

The welding competition consisted of creating different angles with different thicknesses of metals.

Both students said the olympics are helping the image of technical programs.

Mr. McElroy said for the last few years the technical courses have been looked down on.

"The olympics sort of spark an interest in people," Mr. Brankiewicz said. He noted a lot more "academic" students have been taking technical courses this year.

Mr. McElroy said the courses have also changed. "Before it was a lot of book work but you learn most of it (welding) in practical work."

While he admits to enjoying the practical side of technical courses he did note "you have to know the theory."

"The teachers seem to know what they're doing," Mr. Brankiewicz said. He is currently in Grade 13 and is planning to take a job as a welder for one year before going to Waterloo University for a course in environmental engineering.

Mr. McElroy, a Grade 12 student, is hoping to head for Conestoga College for a course in welding and small engines.

Monitoring medication before surgery

DR. GOTT



DEAR DR. GOTT: I'm being treated for hypertension with Tenormin and am considering having prostate surgery. Should I discontinue my medication prior to surgery, so as to prevent any poor reaction while under anesthesia?

DEAR READER: As you imply, certain medications increase the risk of complications from surgery. For example, Tenormin (atenolol, a beta blocker used to treat hypertension) can cause a patient to have an unacceptably slow heart rate during general anesthesia. Therefore, the prudent patient always informs the physician, the anesthesiologist or the surgeon about medicines he is taking — both prescription drugs and over-

the-counter compounds.
In addition, before surgery, a pa-

tient should never stop prescription drugs on his own. This could be dangerous. For instance, if you were to discontinue Tenormin, without your doctor prescribing an appropriate substitute, your blood pressure could suddenly rise to very high levels; the rise might be accentuated by the stress of surgery, putting you at risk for stroke or heart failure. Therefore, if patients need to forego their medicines for several days, this decision (and the subsequent monitoring) should be made by a physician.

In your case, you probably don't need to discontinue Tenormin because most prostate surgery is performed under spinal anesthesia, during which the lower portion of your body is temporarily numbed while you remain fully awake. Because heart function and respiration are not affected by spinal anesthesia — as they are by general anesthesia — the effects of the Tenormin should pose no threat. Nevertheless, you should discuss this with the anesthesiologist before surgery because your situation may have unique features.

To give you additional information, I am sending you a free copy of my Health Report "Hypertension."

DEAR DR. GOTT: Why do I get severe chest pain if I eat a big spoonful of peanut butter?

DEAR READER: The nerves supplying sensation to the lower esophagus and stomach travel alongside the nerves from the heart. Therefore, heart attacks may produce pain that is misperceived as indigestion. Similarly, the discomfort of esophageal or stomach irritation often mimics the pain of heart attacks. This confusion sometimes causes quite a challenge to doctors who attempt, by obtaining a medical history, to differentiate between the various sources of chest pain.

The pain you experience from eating peanut butter is probably the result of lower-esophageal nerve stimulation. As the spoonful of peanut butter passes into your stomach, it stretches the esophagus, causing chest pressure and discomfort. Avoid swallowing large lumps of dry material — or dilute this material with a swallow or two of liquid.

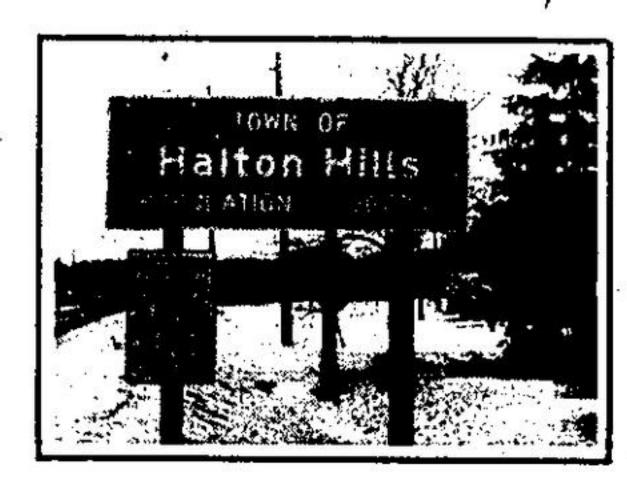


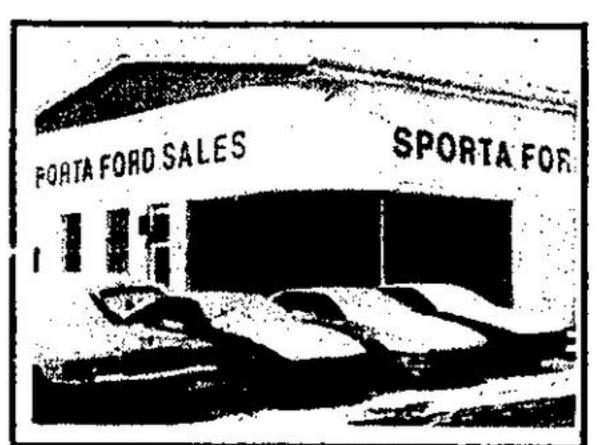
A new spirit of giving

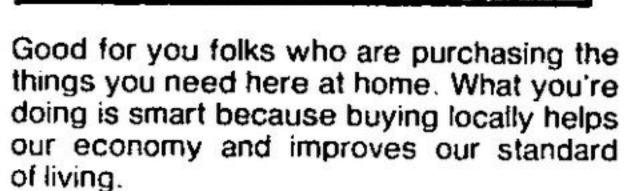
It's About Time We Gave

HALTON HILLS

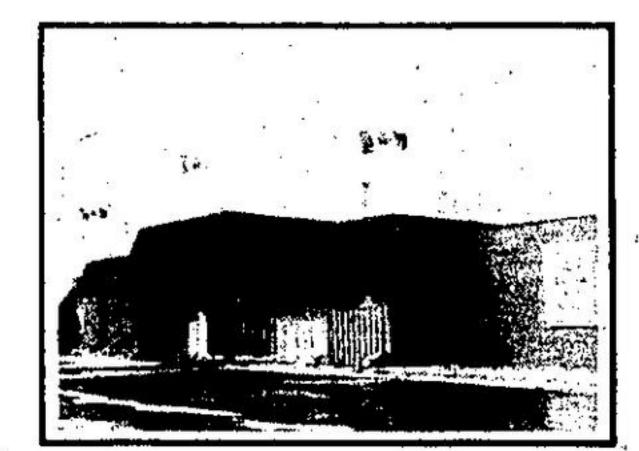
The Business.







Dollars spent with Halton Hills merchants stay here. They dont drift away to Brampton. Toronto and Mississauga. Can you remember the last time people in those communities





showed up here to help put out a fire, or donate to a local project?

Give Halton Hills the business. Pester its retailers for your shoes, shirts, groceries, home furnishings — everything you need or want. You'll save time, money and more importantly you'll be making an investment in our future that will benefit you, your children and your children's children.

A Message on behalf of Our Community brought to you by:

theHERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

The World Almanac Crossword Puzzle

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