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Young female faces charges

A 13-year-old Georgetown girl has been charged with pointing a firearm and assault with a weapon in connection with an incident on Jan. 27 when an 11-year-old Georgetown boy was held secure while a youth pointed a pellet gun at his head and fired the unloaded weapon six times.

The female charged, whose name cannot be revealed under the Young Offender's Act, was charged after police interviewed three suspects at the police station on Tuesday. The other two youths interviewed were not charged.

The incident leading to the arrest took place on Dayfoot Drive behind the arena on Mill Street when the victim was approached by three youths all around 13-years-of-age. Police say the victim fled after being shot at with an airgun to his home where his parents reported the three youths verbally abused them.

The female charged will appear in Milton youth court on March 15 and faces a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment under the Young Offenders Act.

Regional Council bizarre debate

By BEN DUMMETT
 The Herald

Halton Regional Council showed Wednesday that anything is debatable regardless of how bizarre it might be.

Council spent approximately 20 minutes debating whether the word "receive" or "endorse" should be used in a resolution directing Regional staff to seek public input into Halton's Official Plan Review.

In a close vote council opted for the word receive.

Milton Regional Councillor Brad Clements first introduced the motion that the word receive should replace the word endorse. He was concerned the word endorse would send a message to the public that Council had already decided on the content of the Official Plan Review and it was only paying lip service to the public through the public meetings.

The planned public meetings will centre on a draft document entitled "Land Stewardship and Healthy Communities: A Vision for the 90's and Beyond." The document advocates the general planning direction that Regional Council should follow including greater protection of farm land and higher density urban centres.

Burlington Regional Coun. Walter Mulkewich represented those councillors in support of the word endorse. Calling the draft document "truly important and

significant," the councillor said the public wants to know council's vision for the future of the Region. Since the document is in draft form, he fully expects changes to be made but the councillor said the word endorse gives an idea to the public of where council stands.

Most other councillors who participated in this apparent "war over words" argued along the lines of either Coun. Clements or Mulkewich but then there was Burlington Regional Coun. Joyce Savoline. Obviously frustrated with the debate and the amount of time spent on it, the councillor said angrily "we could endorse or receive all day," in a call for council to hurry up and make a decision.

Halton Hills Regional councillors voted four-to-one in favor of the word endorse. Mayor Russ Miller, Coun. Joe Hewitt, Pam Johnston and Marilyn Serjeanston opposed the word receive while Rick Bonnette supported it.

Rifle incident seals area

Halton Regional Police closed Steeles Avenue between 8th Line and 10th Line for two hours Wednesday night after a motorist driving on Steeles Ave. near the 9th Line at 4:10 p.m. reported seeing a male youth pointing a rifle in his direction.

Police reported with their tactical and rescue unit, which were in the Halton Hills area training, along with district personnel who resolved the matter without incident when a 13-year-old young offender was interviewed and a toy rifle seized.

"The toy rifle was an old, inoperable air gun not capable of shooting any projectiles," said Detective Sergeant Michael Eacrett. "It appears the youth was playing and had no idea of the possible ramifications of his actions." As a consequence, the youth wasn't charged.

In the end, the matter turned out to be a "nuisance" for motorists and police officers but Detective Sergeant Eacrett said reports like this are treated seriously because police don't know what's going on until it's all over.



She's a behind the scenes kind of volunteer - the one that does everything but you rarely see in the limelight. That changed for Siena Van Hoekelen on Wednesday when the Georgetown Lions Club chose

her as Citizen of the Year for her dedication to the needy and her volunteer work in the community. (Herald photo by Lisa Boonstoppel-Pot)

Siena Van Hoekelen chosen Georgetown 'Citizen of the Year'

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
 The Herald

"You name it and she's done it," is how the Lions Club described Siena Van Hoekelen, 1990 Georgetown Citizen of the Year.

Mrs. Van Hoekelen, of Cleaveholm Drive in Georgetown, was one of 10 nominees for Citizen of the Year, chosen by the Georgetown Lions Club. Manny Mitera, representing the Lions, said she was nominated many times for her volunteer work and dedication to the needy in the community.

But Mrs. Van Hoekelen said she never expected such a thing to happen to her. "When they told me I was named Citizen of the Year, it floored me because I never think of things like that."

"I've just volunteered for all these organizations as a way to fill my life," she said. "After my husband, Ed Van Hoekelen died, I wanted to keep busy and I knew I wanted to do things for other people."

And kept busy she has. The organizations she's involved in include: Good Neighbours Service for five years; mother and tot program for 10 years; Bennett Health Care Centre for over five years; the food care program for seniors put on by the Public Health Unit; Catholic Women's League from the Holy Cross Church of which she is an active member and involved in the Holy Cross Parish Council; member of the St. Vincent DePaul Society which collects clothing for needy people; member of the local SHARE club which raises funds for the needy in the third world;

Red Cross blood donor clinics; Georgetown Horticultural Society and she's chairman of the fundraising committee and on the board of directors for the Seniors Recreation Centre.

Through these organizations she's become a valuable member to the Georgetown community since she moved here in 1968 to live with her second husband after an unusual romance.

Four years after her first husband died, leaving her with eight children, she wanted to share her life again and began corresponding with a Georgetown man from her home in British Columbia.

Eventually, that man, Ed Van Hoekelen, decided to visit her and after a rewarding time together, he asked her to visit his family in Georgetown. She did and the two fell in love.

The third time they met, was on their wedding day.

For "17 good years" they lived with their children in a house on

Mill Street but when he got sick with cancer, they decided to move to a smaller home on Cleaveholm Street. Mr. Van Hoekelen passed away before the move was complete.

That was in 1985, and now Mrs. Van Hoekelen is 75 years old but she says she has no intentions of slowing down.

"I'll keep going as long as the Lord lets me," she said.

Mrs. Van Hoekelen is the 19th person to receive this honor since the Georgetown Lions Club decided to recognize someone who has served the community in an outstanding way.

She will receive her award at a special supper on March 5 at the Georgetown Lions Club Hall. Tickets for the dinner are available to the public at \$17 per head.

Cocktails start at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Barrager's Cleaners or from Lions Club members.

Cabinet ministers visit Acton, Georgetown on listening tour

Local business and real estate community members will have an opportunity next week to have face-to-face meetings with two federal cabinet members.

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner announces he'll be hosting sessions in Acton and Georgetown for National Revenue Minister Otto Jelinek and Housing Minister Alan Redway Tuesday (Feb. 12) afternoon.

"I believe this is a unique opportunity for community business leaders to ask questions of two important ministers," Turner said, "as well as putting forward their own comments and suggestions."

"It's important for Ottawa's decision-makers to come here and listen to our hopes and concerns. This is the way we get responsible and sensitive policies from government."

Alan Redway will meet with a group of real estate agents and brokers in Georgetown, starting at 2 p.m., at the North Halton Golf and Country Club.

A few minutes later, Otto Jelinek - the minister responsible for implementing the GST - will meet with members of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce at the Olde Hide House in Acton.

Both meetings are open to the press. Later in the afternoon, Turner will accompany both ministers to similar events in Bolton.

An Inside Look

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