



## Call for help answered

Police blocked off Main St. North in Georgetown Tuesday for two hours after a woman was seen sitting on the ledge of one of the high retaining walls of the train track overpass by a passing motorist. Police say the drama unfolded when a 27-year-old woman, described as "depressed and distraught" left Georgetown District Memorial Hospital at 11:45 a.m. while the hospital was in the process of admitting her. The hospital called police to report the

missing woman. At 12:30 p.m., police were called by a passing motorist who saw a woman sitting on the bridge wall. Police arrived and with the help of a social worker from the hospital, as requested by the woman, were able to persuade her to return to the hospital. Police say there was no indication she was in possession of a weapon. The overpass on Guelph St. was blocked to traffic until the woman was safely out of harms way. (Herald Photo)

## Chamber stands firm on candidates nights

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce has reconfirmed the dates for its two upcoming all-candidates meetings, rejecting claims the dates are biased in favor of incumbents.

At a special Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday, the Board of Directors voted unanimously that the dates remain as first announced three weeks ago, said Dave Page, Chamber President, following the meeting.

The meetings are scheduled for Nov. 4 at Acton High School and Nov. 6 at Georgetown District High School. Both all-candidates meetings start at 8 pm.

Mr. Page said the Chamber had been approached last week by two non-incumbent municipal candidates claiming the dates favored the incumbents.

The complaint centred on the fact the all-candidates meetings are scheduled after the advance polls, Nov. 2, and Nov. 6. Advance polling stations will be at the Halton Hills Civic Centre and the Acton Community Centre. The stations will be open from 10 am to 8 pm.

Mr. Page wouldn't release the names of those who raised the concerns.

The dates were chosen on the basis of when the two schools would be available, said Mr. Page. After the concerns were raised, two previously available dates opened up but they were rejected, said Mr. Page.

Since 85 per cent of the candidates had confirmed their attendance at the originally scheduled meetings, Mr. Page said, the majority of candidates wouldn't be able to change their schedules on such short notice.

Mr. Page said he hopes all candidates will attend the all-candidates meetings.

Contacted Monday, Ward 2 Regional councillor candidate Bill Robson acknowledged he contacted the Chamber last week about the dates.

"Some people came to me saying they had difficulty with the dates," said Mr. Robson.

"They felt the dates tilted the playing field towards the incumbents," he continued.

People using the advance polls should have the right to hear from all candidates before voting, he said.

Mr. Robson said he was only acting as a messenger and it doesn't make any difference to him when the meetings are held, "because I'm going to win." However, ethically it makes sense to give everyone a fair chance, he added.

Asked why those who approached him did so only recently and not three weeks ago when the dates were first announced, Mr. Robson said people must have only recently realized when the advance polls were being held.

During the meeting, the board of directors also voted unanimously to support Chamber Vice-President and Herald Publisher Bob Malcolmson and Chamber General Manager Doug Penrice as the moderators for the Acton and Georgetown meetings respectively.

Both Mr. Malcolmson and Mr. Penrice had moderated similar debates for the Chamber in the past and they have done a good job for us, said Mr. Page.

Since sponsoring municipal election all-candidate meetings, this is the first time complaints have been lodged against the Chamber about the choice of dates, confirmed Mr. Page.

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## Seniors centre not a priority

By BEN DUMMETT  
The Herald

Not surprisingly, local non-incumbent candidates attending a recent Georgetown Seniors' Association meeting expressed support for the establishment of a Georgetown seniors centre.

However, during interviews after the meeting, several candidates didn't necessarily support the type of senior centre advocated by the 800-member seniors' association.

Association President Les Mellish told candidates his organization believes Georgetown seniors need a \$1 million dollar, 10,000 square foot building.

The seniors' association would contribute approximately \$200,000 towards the building's start-up costs through fundraising, the province would contribute \$300,000 and \$500,000 would be provided by the Town. Mr. Mellish points out part of the facility would be used by both seniors and the general public.

The \$1 million price tag isn't that expensive compared to the cost of other facilities such as an arena, he said.

Candidates agreed Georgetown needs a senior centre, especially since surrounding communities such as Milton and Oakville have centres.

However, most questioned or balked at the Town's contribution of

\$500,000.

"I don't think we would have to spend \$500,000," said Ward 3 Regional councillor candidate Bill Hyde.

He predicts the Town could convert an empty building such as a school into a centre for \$200,000. As the population ages, schools will begin to close due to underuse, said Mr. Hyde. He would like to see construction begin by 1993.

Like Mr. Hyde, Ward 4 Regional councillor candidate Al Pilutti supports the conversion of an existing empty building into a permanent centre within the next two years.

Mr. Mellish told his audience the association is close to securing a space in which to establish a temporary facility. The yearly operating costs would be approximately \$60,000 with the Town being responsible for \$20,000 of that total, said Mr. Mellish. He didn't offer any other specifics about the temporary facility since the deal isn't concluded.

Both Mr. Hyde and Mr. Pilutti agreed seniors should focus their attention on establishing a permanent centre since that's the association's ultimate goal.

While Ward 2 Town Councillor candidate Kathy Gastle says seniors need some sort of facility, she is unconvinced, "the seniors need a 10,000 square foot building."



## Week of the Child

Acton Citizen Band leader George Elliot (left) released the ribbon Sunday at Acton High School to officially kick off the International 'Week of the Child' with the 'Kids on Cloud Nine' event hosted by the Georgetown Branch of the Association for Early Childhood Education. (From left to right) George Elliot, Acting Sergeant Marty Power of the Halton

Region Police Service, Chris Hartley, Kim McMahon, Teresa Fisher, and Lucy Quaglia from the Association for Early Childhood Education, and Barb Wood and Grace Borges from the Halton Hills Child Care Centre. (Herald Photo by Steven LeBlanc)

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