

Preserving memories

The official launch of the Halton Newspaper Digital Archive was celebrated at the Georgetown Branch of the Halton Hills Library last Wednesday. This product is the result of countless hours of software development, tweaking, and troubleshooting by the library's Manager of Support Services, Walter Lewis. The Halton Digital Newspaper Archive builds on the indexing that has been a hallmark of the work of Halton's public libraries by providing online access to community newspapers previously available in microfilm only.

Each of the public libraries in Halton has its own indexing story, usually starting with 3 x 5 index cards. The story of the website begins with volunteer Marshall Neilson entering Births, Marriages and Death events from the back files of the Acton Free Press. He started work in 1984, and over the next ten years, added over

150,000 names from the Acton, Georgetown and Milton papers. Volunteers (seniors and high school), staff and summer students have contributed hundreds of additional hours to this work.

In 1999, under the leadership of HALINET (the Halton Information Network), staff from Halton's public libraries embarked on a project to provide online access to this indexing. The Ontario Ministry of Culture honoured the project with the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence. What was launched on January 19 combines a quarter century of data entry with full access to extended digital runs of many of the community newspapers in Halton Region.

The digitization of the back microfilm of the Acton and Georgetown papers was made possible through a \$14,200 grant from the Ontario Genealogical Society: Halton-Peel Branch. Without

this critical support, the Halton Digital Newspaper Archive would not have evolved into the powerful search tool that it is today. Some of the features of this site include:

- Mobile device searching
- Key word searching
- Browsing by last name
- Birth, death and engagement notices; in memoriams and wedding announcements
- Access to entire issues

• Scoping a search from the regional to local level
Since 2006, the tools being used for the site have been supported by Knowledge Ontario, (<http://knowledgeontario.ca>)

an organization financed by the Ontario Ministry of Culture and the libraries and educational institutions of the province. Knowledge Ontario's mandate is to facilitate the development of skills for digital citizenship in this province.



HIGHWAY CLOSED: No one was injured on Monday when a van and gravel truck collided on Highway 25 in front of Tuitman's. The investigation continues into the accident that closed the highway for approximately three hours.

— Angela Tyler photos

Remand in Acton murder case

An Acton man charged with second degree murder in connection with the death of his neighbour made another court

appearance via video hook-up today (Thursday), and was remanded in custody. He appeared in a Milton court via a video

link last Thursday.

Eddie McGuin, 47, has been in custody since his arrest on January 6 following the death of Rick MacLeod, 49, who was pronounced dead at a Mill Street West apartment following an altercation on January 6. Police have not released the cause of death.

Residents of the building are as closed lipped as are police about details of the incident. When asked to comment, one tenant of the multi-unit building said, "Good luck sweetheart. Go to another building." Another said, "All you newspapers (sic) should go f--- themselves," and another tenant said to leave because the landlord didn't want media in the building.

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HALTON HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

In preparation for its move, the Acton Branch of the Halton Hills Public Library will be closing on **Saturday, February 5th.**

The new facility will open on **Tuesday, February 22nd.**



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