

Editorial..... 6
 Sports 12
 Calendar 9
 Classified..... 14-15
 Directory..... RE 8



KATHRYN'S KAFE

Cancer survivor, age 7, to aid SickKids with lemonade stand
PAGE 5



STREAK ENDED

Bulldogs lose their first game of the season
PAGE 12

THE INDEPENDENT

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1938 piece sells for \$542,800 at Canadian art auction

Casson's 'Glen' painting nets record price

By **LISATALLYN**
 Staff Writer

A large oil canvas depicting a fall scene in Glen Williams by A.J. Casson recently sold for \$542,800— a new auction world record for a painting by the Group of Seven artist.

After some spirited bidding the painting entitled *Street in Glen Williams* sold to a western Canadian buyer at Joyner Waddingtons Spring Auction of Important Canadian Art in Toronto last Tuesday evening.

Bidding started at \$180,000 and jumped in 10,000 and \$20,000 increments before the final bid of \$460,000 was accepted. The final price of \$542,800 includes an 18 per cent buyer's premium.

Joyner Vice-President Rob Cowley said they had set an auction estimate of \$200,000 to \$250,000 for the painting done by Casson during the late 1930s.

"We knew it was a very special work," said Cowley. "(Casson) was at the height of his skill and his confidence."

He added it was done just after the Group of Seven had "ceased to be."

Cowley said it's not known what street in Glen Williams is depicted in the painting. In the auction house's description of the painting it said Casson painted it circa 1938 and it had been exhibited in the 59th Annual Exhibition, Royal Canadian Academy of Artists, Art Gallery of Toronto that year.

Canadian art critic and historian Paul Duval wrote in 1980 that, "Casson has recorded small towns in every season, and *Street in Glen Williams* is unquestionably



A. J. Casson's *Street in Glen Williams* set a new auction world record for a Group of Seven artist last week.
 Artwork courtesy Joyner Waddingtons Spring Auction

his key autumn portrait."

"It is a picture the artist remembers as being particularly enjoyable to paint, and the evidence of the canvas itself bears this out," wrote Duval.

Cowley said Casson "had family in that area of Ontario," and was a "master of depicting small town Ontario."

The painting had come from a private

collection and had never been up for auction before, said Cowley.

"We were delighted with the outcome," said Cowley.

Casson was born in 1898 and joined the Group of Seven in 1926. He died in 1992.

The previous auction record for a Casson, was \$489,100 for *October Morning*, at a Joyner auction in 2005.

All council incumbents ready to run

Halton Hills town councillors, representing Ward 1 (Acton), Jon Hurst and Mike O'Leary, filed their nomination papers to seek re-election in the 2010 municipal election.

All members of council have now filed their candidacy on Election Day, Monday, Oct. 25. They include: Mayor Rick Bonnette, Wards 1&2 Regional rep Clark Somerville, Wards 3&4 Regional rep Jane Fogal, and Ward 2 councillors Bryan Lewis and Joan Robson, Ward 3 councillors Moya Johnson and Dave Kentner, and Ward 4 councillors John Duncan and Bob Inglis.

To date no challengers have filed nomination papers. The last date to file is Friday, Sept. 10.

Hurst and O'Leary, who both filed on Friday, May 28, were first elected in 2003, and were acclaimed in the 2006 election.

Also seeking re-election are incumbents Halton Chair Gary Carr, Halton Hills public school trustee Gerry Ockenden and Halton Hills Catholic school trustee Rosanna Palmieri.

Nomination forms and other election information can be found on the Town's website, www.haltonhills.ca.

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