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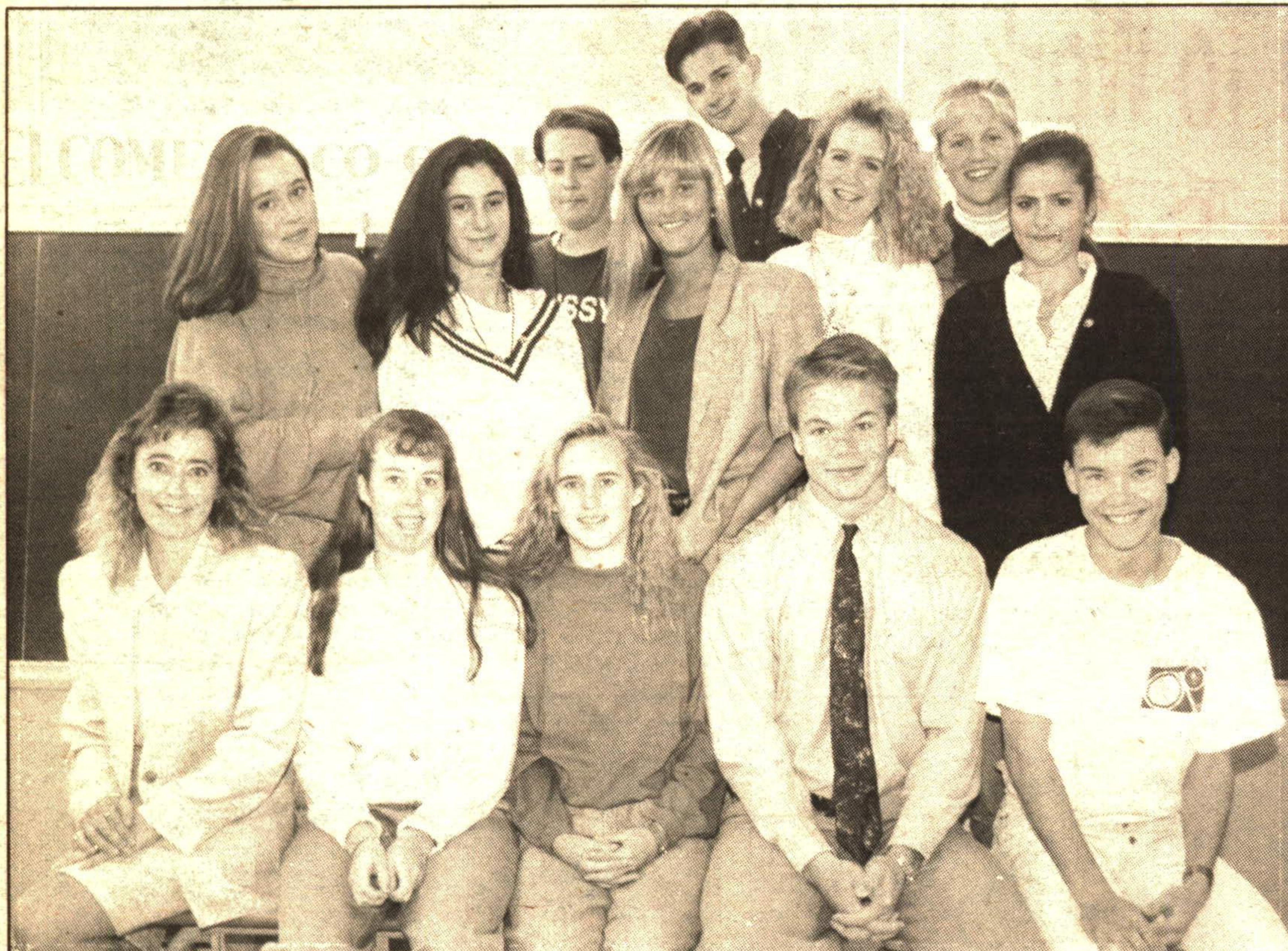
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VOLUME 7 -- NO. 25



STUDENTS SUPPORT UNITED WAY

The United Way campaign has just begun its annual funding drive in the community of Halton Hills, and a dozen students from Georgetown District High School have volunteered their time and energy to knock on people's doors. The student canvassers are (back row, left to right)

Jon McMurray, Todd Wees and Marcia Streuter, (middle row) Juli Gourley, Janet Scida, Alana Morrow, Lisa Hitchcock, Sue Anderson, (front row) United Way residential chairperson Jane Nixon, Kerri Allen, Laurie Tutt, Jer Baker and Mark Tufford.

Willow Park eviction hearing begins

Judge dismisses CVCA's attempt to seal records

By STUART JOHNSTON

A Brampton judge has ruled against a Credit Valley Conservation Authority's (CVCA) move to keep certain evidence under wraps regarding Norval's Willow Park eviction.

At Brampton court Thursday, CVCA solicitor Mark Edwards attempted to have three Willow Park residents' affidavits sealed and stricken from the public record before a formal court hearing in October.

Edwards argued the affidavits are not relevant to the case because they would delay a fair hearing; are scandalous, frivolous and vexatious; and are an abuse of the process of the court, according to court documents.

But, Brampton Judge Paisley ruled against the motion, noting the documents do have a direct bearing on the case and should be public knowledge, according to Willow Park resident Heather Croft.

"There are certain confidential letters in the affidavits that they didn't feel should be made public," Croft said in an interview. "But the judge said we, in Willow Park, are the public, and the rest of the public should have all of the information. The judge called it ridiculous to seal the public records...Why seal the records? Just because some are con-

fidential letters doesn't make sense."

A formal hearing is set for October 8 over whether or not the trailer park residents should immediately vacate the Norval property.

A formal hearing is not the same as a regular judge/jury trial. All the evidence and cross-examinations are heard prior to the hearing, at which point the judge will review it, allowing only the lawyers to make their case. Witnesses and oral evidence will not be permitted at the hearing.

The CVCA expropriated the park almost three years ago, citing potential threat to life and property by flooding. The residents were given notice to leave the property by March 15 of this year, but an alternative site for their homes in Acton was denied by the Ontario Municipal Board, leaving them without a place to move to.

The residents are fighting for more time, but the CVCA wants to exercise its right of eviction as soon as possible.

"The issue is they have agreed to move, but they haven't yet," CVCA general manager Vicki Barron said.

Barron noted the CVCA solicitor attempted to remove the affidavits from the public record because they "are not relevant to the case."

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Acton Foodshare needs help

Those interested in donating such foods (for example, fruit cups, drinking boxes, peanut butter or cookies) may do so at the Acton Foodshare (the Olde Beardmore Building, south end of Elgin St.) on Tuesday 9-1, or Thursday 1:30-4 or at Acton Social Services, 19 Willow St. N., Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30. Please call 853-3310 for more information. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Inside

Pay raise for cops, page 5

Matt Brain excels, page 16

Ratepayers unhappy developers footing bill for study

By STUART JOHNSTON

The growth potential of Ballinafad will finally be realized through a community study jointly organized by Halton Hills and Erin Township, but some residents are not happy with how it's being conducted.

Representatives of the Hickory Falls Ratepayers' Association expressed their outrage that the Town's share of the estimated \$30,000 study is to be solely funded by three landowners in Ballinafad,

Ballinafad at crossroads of development

two of which already have development applications on file with the Planning Department.

"The developers are buying the study — I've seen this time and time again," Nancy Mulholland of the Association told *The Weekend*. "I can't imagine why the Planning Department would have developers pay for the study."

She questioned the integrity of the study, wondering aloud if the developers' contribution will "somehow influence" the report's conclusions.

However, Town senior planner Andrew Colley said in an interview he firmly believes the developers "will in no way directly influence" the outcome of the study.

"It's been done in the past here in Halton Hills and in other municipalities," Colley said. "They'll have as much input as any member of the public, which will be dealt with by staff and through the political process. They are totally at arms' length, so there is absolutely no way the developers can have a direct influence."

The study is to determine the growth potential of Ballinafad for the years to come, Colley added.

"Certain issues like water and

sewage must be resolved first through the study before development is allowed to proceed in the rural cluster of Ballinafad," he said. "It's at the limit for development now, under the Region's definition of a rural cluster...Like any other planning study it will see what (development) scenarios will emerge."

Colley noted the area could be redesignated as a hamlet, which would allow for greater, and more diverse, growth.

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