

Sunday shopping begins today

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Sunday in Halton Hills will be a shopping day, starting today.

Wednesday Premier Bob Rae announced a free vote on the Sunday shopping issue, and the vote could be held as early as Thursday. Until then, police have been advised by Attorney General Howard Hampton not to press charges for stores which chose to open.

As a result, many of the major retailers, including Zellers, are expected to open on Sundays, starting this week. Even many independently-operated Halton Hills businesses plan to open Sunday.

"I'm thrilled that we finally have Sunday shopping," said Mary-Ellen Stephens from Final Touch, the vice-chair of the Georgetown BIA. "I lived in the Bible belt in the United States for 10 years, and the stores there

were always open. You couldn't find more family-oriented people, but they always found time for their families." Her store will be open from noon to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Stephens knows other downtown stores will also open. She will likely hire a student for the rest of the summer to work Sundays, so the new proposed legislation will generate a part-time job, even in her small business. Stephens is looking forward to doing her grocery shopping on Sundays, and her husband is looking forward to no longer having to do the shopping on Saturdays.

But Emily Grezoux, manager of Georgetown Photo, was disappointed in the news. "Sunday is my day to get caught up on the book work and do other things. But if everybody else opens, we'll probably end up opening too, and I'll end up working myself," she said.

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Canada's 125th

Send your greetings

Hey readers, Canada celebrates its 125th birthday July 1. Help make wishes as possible. Canada's birthday extra special this year by joining in the fun.

If you could make one wish for this great country of ours, what would it be?

Please send your birthday greetings to us along with a brief explanation as to why your wish is important.

On Wednesday, July 1, we will publish as many of these birthday



wishes as possible. Help make Canada's birthday extra special this year by joining in the fun.

Please send your wish to: the Georgetown Independent or Acton Free Press, Birthday Wish for Canada, 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4X5.

HALTON HILLS

WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Join the party!

In celebration of Canada's 125th birthday, a National Neighborhood Day has been scheduled for Sunday, June 14. Join in the fun, have a get together in your neighborhood. This is an event that belongs to everyone ... as big or as small as you like ... a celebration of goodwill and friendship and at 2 p.m. raise a toast to all your neighbors. If you are planning a party and would like some posters, or postcards for your guests to send good wishes to the Canada 125 Neighborhood registry or a Canada 125 flag call Recreation and Parks at 873-2600 ext. 263.

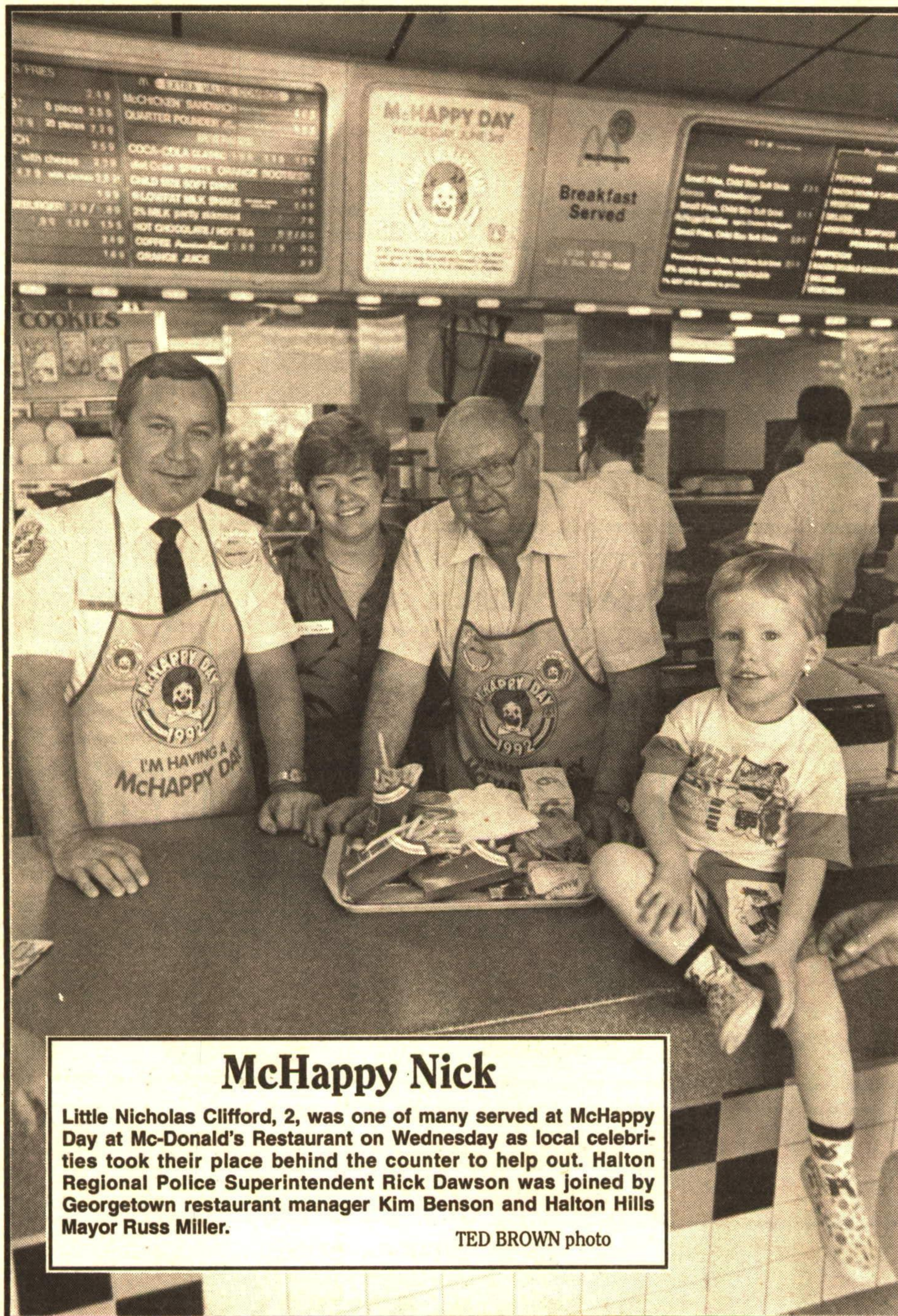
It's this simple! If you would like more information please give us a call. Get to know your neighbors; the future begins with you!

Furniture missing

About \$4,660-worth of items were reported missing from a home on Hwy. 7 and Fifth Line in Acton Monday. The theft occurred sometime between April 5 and 18 when the house was vacant. There were no signs of forced entry, police said. A rosewood coffee table, two side tables, a sofa, two loveseats, lamps and a cordless telephone were taken.

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McHappy Nick

Little Nicholas Clifford, 2, was one of many served at McHappy Day at McDonald's Restaurant on Wednesday as local celebrities took their place behind the counter to help out. Halton Regional Police Superintendent Rick Dawson was joined by Georgetown restaurant manager Kim Benson and Halton Hills Mayor Russ Miller.

TED BROWN photo

Legalese dominates RSI hearings

By STUART JOHNSTON
Staff writer

The preliminary environmental hearing into the Acton dump proposal ended for the week Friday, not with a bang as some had hoped, but with a whimper.

Due to the long list of speakers on both sides of the issue, along with their in-depth arguments, the five days originally scheduled for the entire hearing was used up rather quickly, without any decision from the three hearing officers.

The hearing will likely be reconvened within the next few weeks.

In the meantime, the officers are to rule on whether or not they favor the town's and region's arguments that a full-blown hearing should not take place because Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) didn't follow stringent provincial guidelines in its application for a landfill. RSI is intent on dumping 20 million-plus tonnes of garbage into the Acton Quarry over the next 20 years.

This week's hearing was to determine who the players are, what the issues are, who will require financial assistance to pay for lawyers and consultants during the main hearing, and so on. At that time evidence, examination and cross-examination of witnesses will occur, if it reaches that stage.

However, this week's hearing was bogged down in lengthy "legalese" arguments, so all there was time for were the presentations from the town, region and other individuals, and RSI's rebuttal to them.

Throughout the week, handfuls of interested residents filtered in and out of the proceedings, which were held at the Acton Legion. Most appeared impatient at the slow pace of the hearing, as they were anxious for a decision to be made as soon as possible.

The community, in the form of groups such as POWER (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) and FOAD (Furiously Opposed to Acton Dumping) has been fighting RSI's proposal for about six years now.

The town's and region's strategy (at this stage), if successful, will likely delay, or kill, RSI's proposal.

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