

Lack of fall leaf collection stirs residents' ire

By **STUART JOHNSTON**
Staff writer

Park area residents in Georgetown are up in arms over the town's decision to stop bulk pickup of fall leaves from their neighborhood, and are lobbying officials to reverse this policy.

Edith St. resident Molly Monahan, on behalf of her neighbors, criticized the cutbacks, arguing the town is neglecting its duty to pick up leaves from municipally-owned trees throughout the community.

Up until last year, the town had used a front end loader to scoop the leaves up from the streets and lawns. Now, the town insists that residents rake and bag the leaves themselves for pickup on six designated days in the fall.

Monahan estimated that, because the trees in the park district are so old, it will take 20-30 bags per tree, for a total of 3,000-4,000 bags in all. She argued that it is unfair for the town to expect its residents, many of whom are elderly, to exert so much of their time and energy looking after municipal property.

She contacted numerous municipalities throughout the surrounding vicinity, and discovered that Halton Hills is still using an archaic system for collecting leaves. Many she spoke with from other communities suggested the best solution is to use a specially designed vacuum to suck up the leaves for composting.

"Basically, the town is going to have to continue to pick up leaves

all over Georgetown...Ultimately we are going to have to explore better and more cost efficient technology," she told councillors. "Any blind person can cut services. It takes a government with vision and skill to maintain services within budgetary constraints."

After the presentation, councillors asked for a report from the engineering department within the next month, detailing the various costs and methods of collection.

However, councillor Al Cook noted that he's bagged leaves on his own property for many years, but Monahan shot back that "it shouldn't come down to 'I can do it, so then should you.'

"In the park district, there is a phenomenal amount of leaves...so if there is a need, then the service should be provided," she added. "This really concerns me. A lot of people didn't know about this change in policy. I'm here because leaving it in the street is not a solution to the problem. I'm worried about car accidents, drainage problems and possible liability. I don't see how ignoring the problem is going to help."

But, councillors Cook and Rick Bonnette pointed out that other areas in Halton Hills are also lined with old trees, and argued they should receive the service as well.

"There are a lot of old streets in Acton like that, so we shouldn't be showing preferential treatment and do the whole darn town," Bonnette said. "It's either everybody or nobody."



Winning the prizes

The prizes were drawn in the Georgetown Marketplace Grand Opening Celebration Monday, and the winners dropped by Tuesday to claim them. Winners included, from left, Doug Sargent, winner of the '92 Volkswagen Fox, Rosine Levy, the \$500 shopping spree,

and Gail Latour, the year's membership to Work That Body. In back, Conrad Buy, of Autohaus Georgetown, co-sponsor of the car, Donna Lanthier of Work That Body, and Elaine Turkington, manager of Georgetown Marketplace Mall.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Beware of poker game scams, police warn

Halton police have issued a warning to area residents, particularly golfers, to be wary of anyone who approaches them to play poker.

Police say that in June a group of males infiltrated several golf clubs in Halton, particularly in Burlington and Oakville, and con-

vinced several area residents to play poker with them.

Police say the games were rigged and the game organizers won large quantities of money in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range very quickly.

Several golfers have become

involved in the games. Police are asking anyone who has encountered the games in the past, or those who do in the future, to contact Det. Cst. Andrew Fletcher of the Drug and Morality Bureau, Halton Regional Police Service, at 878-5511 ext. 5043 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-668-5151.

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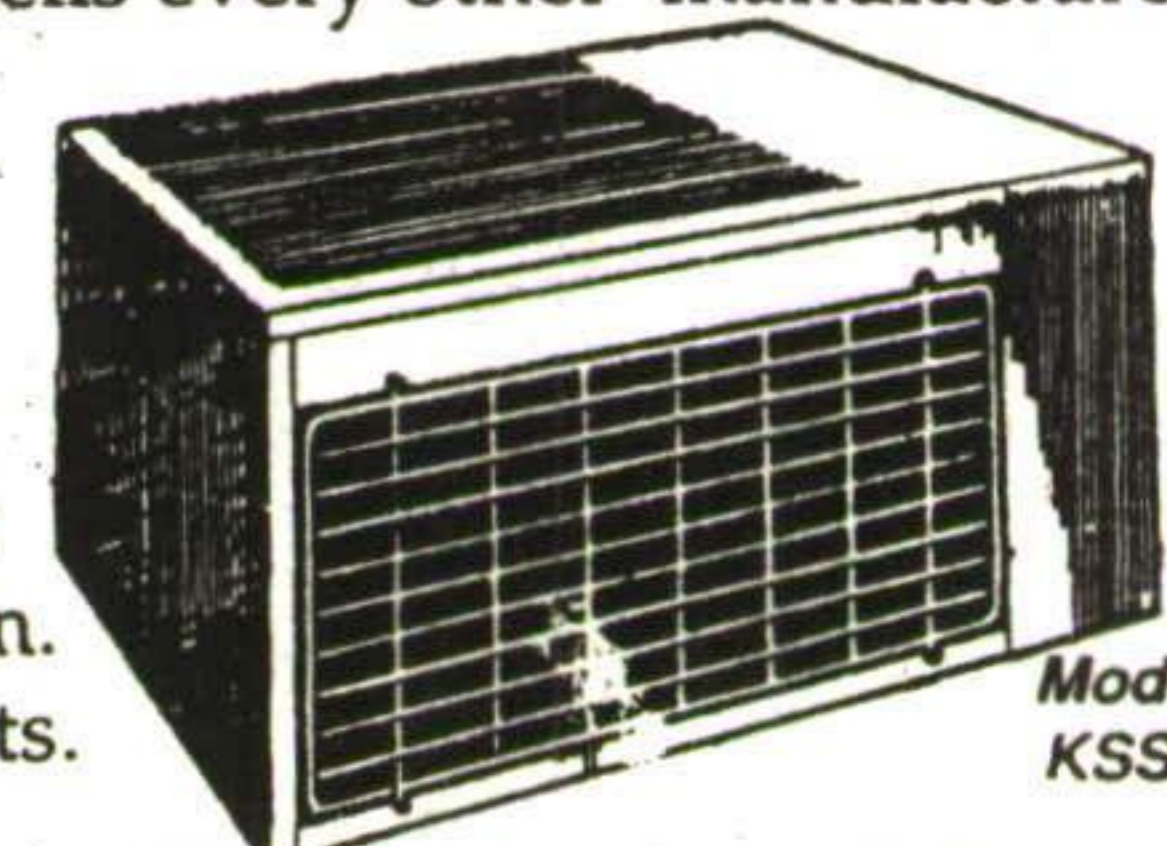
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