Local groups working together to fight Peel landfill

By JANET DUVAL

Special to the Independent/Free Press

The mood at Tuesday's information meeting in the Norval Elks Hall was unanimous: stop the proposed Peel Region landfill on Norval's border.

The only question was how.

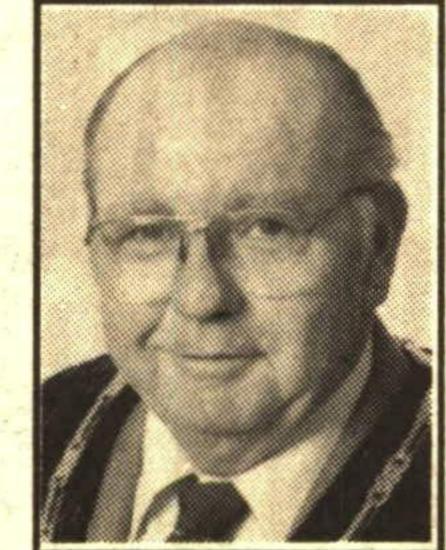
"The council of the Town of Halton Hills is 100 per cent opposed to this," said Mayor Russ Miller, flanked by six town councillors who faced a large and intent audience. "Taxpayers should be screaming at Ruth Grier that we're hav-

ing to spend so much money to fight

111111

Ontario's Interim Waste Authority (IWA) has designated five possible landfill sites in Peel, two of them right on Halton's border, in an area bounded by Winston Churchill Blvd., Heritage Road, Mayfield Road, and the railway line on the south.

The criteria for judging the sites are "pretty unique in my experience," says the town's legal counsel Stephen D'Agostino. "They seem to be based only



RUSS MILLER

on the IWA's need for a site."

Test drilling for a hydrogeological survey will begin January 21, prior to a summer hearing.

The public has until April 1 to comment, "only 45 business days away, and we don't even have funding approval," fumed D'Agostino. The province offers up to \$60,000 for participants in the hearing process. "There's lots of opportunity to challenge the appropriateness of the sites. Just because this is big government doesn't mean we can't challenge

and win," he said. "Six other landfills have failed because taxpayers lobbied and defeated them."

The town's strategy is to fight the proposed sites on technical grounds. It will hire hydrogeologists to monitor the core sampling this month, to have information quickly for preparing its response.

Resident Tom Pettingill spoke in support. "We'll be on good ground if we show that they're on bad ground."

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News

Digest

Cutting 'Costs'

No Town of Halton Hills staff and council members will not receive a cost of living increase in 1993 at a savings to the town of about \$100,000. Council members supported a motion moved by Councillor Anne Currie at Monday night's council meeting stipulating that no cost of living increase be included in the town's 1993 operating budget for employees or council members. "We can't afford any raises for anyone," said Currie. "We should be setting an example."

Fourth Line break-in

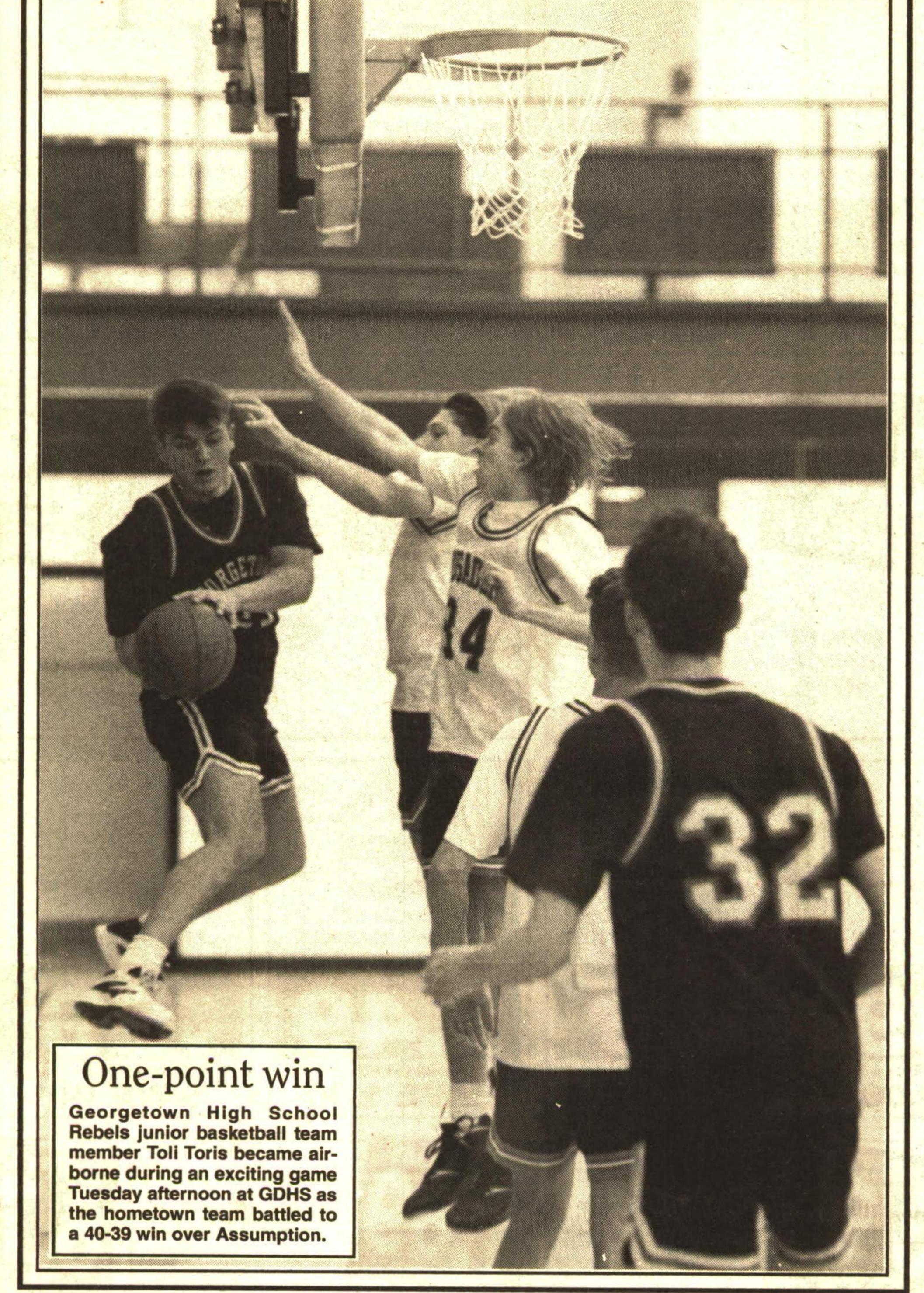
A total of \$1,668.97 in property was stolen during a break and enter on Fourth Line in Halton Hills Tuesday morning. According to police, some time between 8:45 a.m. and 1 p.m., two suspects entered the house through an unsecured rear door on the east side of the property and removed a JVC VCR, two Sony CDs, a Sony Camcorder, and a television. The culprits left through the front door. The investigation is continuing.

TV sets taken

Two television sets were removed from a Tenth Line home in Halton Hills during a break and enter Monday. Police report that some time between 7:45 a.m. and 4:50 p.m., culprit(s) pried open the front door of the home and took two televisions valued at \$1,300.

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Recreation Master Plan meeting

Residents want more parkland, lower user-fees

By STEVE LeBLANC

Staff writer

More parklands, upgraded facilities and lower rental fees topped the concerns of Halton Hills residents at the Recreation and Parks Department's public meeting Tuesday.

Approximately 20 residents attended the Acton meeting to discuss long term planning for recreation, including future needs, facilities, services and planning policies.

The meeting Tuesday and one held Thursday night in Georgetown will help consultants IER Planning, Research and Management Services of Concord, Ont. to formulate a Recreation Master Plan for Halton Hills.

Heading up the IER team are Jim Morgenstern and Jill Whitelew.

"The purpose of this Master Plan is to meet the needs of the entire community and to make Halton Hills a better place where residents can enjoy their leisure time," explained Morgenstern, who was pleased with the turnout. "Increasing participation and recommending realistic financial guidelines are also part of

Morgenstern and Whitelew will be working with Halton Hills Master Plan Steering Committee in this venture. The steering committee is headed up by

Georgetown resident Dave Kentner.

"This is a very important undertaking for Halton Hills. It's the first time town council has taken on such a venture," said Kentner. "The process will include an inventory of all the services, an assessment of them, inventory of the thoughts of the public, and from there, the implementation of a comprehensive program."

Having a Master Plan should go a long way towards receiving government grants for new and present programs and services, he said. High on that list is the need for a Seniors' Centre in Halton Hills.

Alex Tough, a member of both the local soccer and darts leagues, voiced his preference for more parkland, concerned that with the number of developers coming to Halton Hills in the past few years, the town had been trading off land for cash.

Although this decision is left up to each municipality, Morgenstern answered, recommendations for use of parklands in the future will be a big part of this study process.

See FUTURE, page 5





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