

Special discounts on Seniors' Day

Beginning this week, the last Wednesday of every month will be known as Seniors' Day in downtown Georgetown.

Throughout the day downtown businesses will offer special discounts for seniors.

To make it easier for the seniors to get downtown the Georgetown Central Business Improvement Area has arranged to co-sponsor Knechtel's Senior Bus, which runs every Wednesday, to stop downtown the last Wednesday of the month.

Now in addition to providing free seniors bus service to Knechtel's, bus ser-

vice to the downtown will also be free once a month. On the return trip from Moore Park that day, seniors will be dropped off downtown and picked up by the bus about an hour later.

"This is the first time to my knowledge that we have promoted a seniors' day," said Margaret Vint, manager of the Georgetown BIA. "We know there are a lot of seniors who love coming downtown, we just wanted to offer them something."

"The majority of the downtown businesses will be participating," said Vint.

Bob Creasy, manager/owner of the Knechtel's says he has been providing the

bus service for seniors from the pick-up points on Durham St., Sargent Rd., Cote Terrace and Park Ave. for about four years.

"There are always new faces coming on the bus," said Creasy. "The response has been good. We get anywhere between 28 and 35 seniors a week."

As in the past the seniors will be picked up at about 9:15 a.m. and the bus will leave Knechtel's at about 10:30 p.m. Seniors going downtown will have an hour to shop around, and then the bus will pick them up and take them back to their pick-up points.

House fire damage estimated at \$100,000

A fire caused an estimated \$100,000 in damage to a house on Sixth Line in Halton Hills early Tuesday morning.

Police report that at approximately 9:30 a.m., Carol Lambert noticed smoke and flames shooting out of a neighbor's home and called the fire department.

Fortunately the house, owned by Eva Snoj, was empty at the time of the fire and no one was injured. However, there was extensive smoke and fire damage through the entire house.

Investigation revealed that the fire was started by wooden skids that were piled against an electrical extension cord.

HALTON HILLS

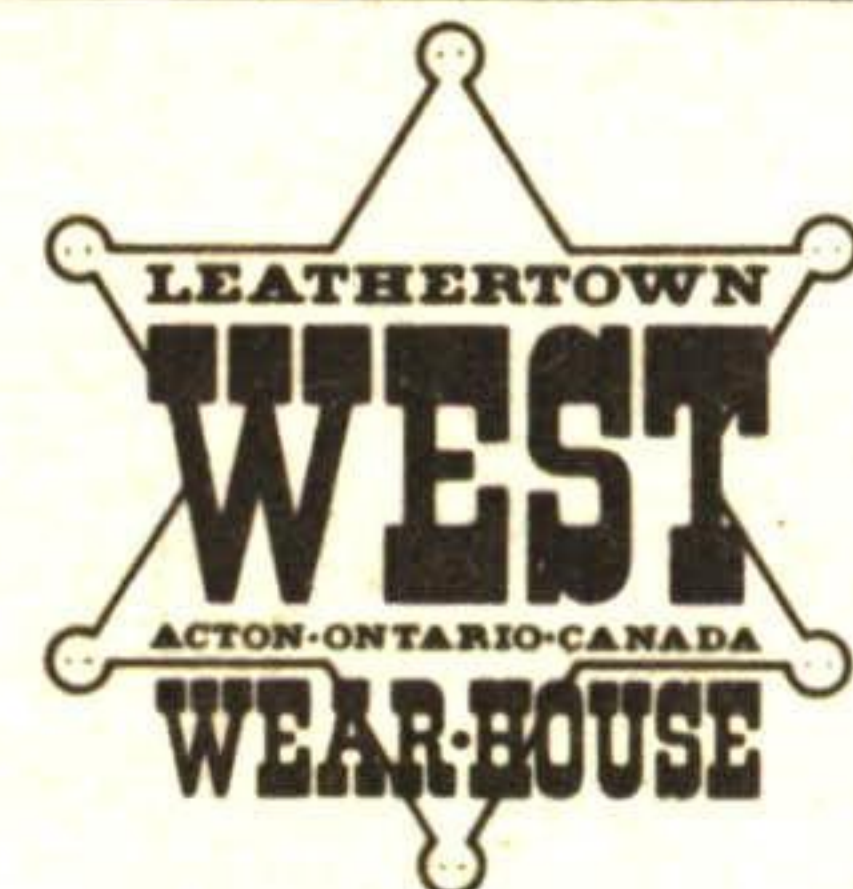
WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Firefighters busy

Halton Hills firefighters responded to a car fire and a motor vehicle accident this week.

Firefighters were called to the scene after a car caught fire on Alcott Drive and Guelph Street in Georgetown at 4:26 p.m. No one was injured during the fire and damage was estimated at \$2,000.

Two people were trapped during a motor vehicle accident on Queen Street in Georgetown at 2:01 a.m. Friday morning. Firefighters assisted in removing the two people, who were taken to Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital where they were treated for minor injuries.

Nomination time

Acton Lions are once again asking for nominations for Acton's 1992 Citizen of the Year, and are accepting names of deserving citizens or groups for the honor. Nominations, complete with supporting resumes, must be postmarked not later than March 30, 1993 to Acton Lions Club, Citizen of the Year, P.O. Box 28, Acton, Ontario, L7J 2M2. The recipient will be honored dinner will be held April 30, at Acton Legion.

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'In Twaining'

Centennial Middle School students are rehearsing with a passion as they prepare for their upcoming stage production, "Tom Sawyer." Lead actors, Garry Norman, (Huck Finn) Garth Serjeantson (Tom Sawyer) and Beth Ann

Burgess (Becky Thatcher) are among the students taking part. The operetta, based on the Mark Twain classic, opens April 6 at John Elliott Theatre with three shows.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Public school board approves budget

Thursday night, Halton Board of Education trustees approved a \$291,305,111 million budget — a 3.43 per cent mill rate hike.

This translates into a \$43 increase on the average household's tax bill.

"The board has approved the lowest expenditure increase (2 per cent) in the history of the Halton Board and the lowest mill rate increase in well over a decade,"

said David Coons, chair of the Halton Board of Education. "This represents an understanding by our board of the effect these tough economic times have had on the people in our community."

He added, the approval is only the start of substantial long-term reductions. "We're looking in 1994 at a real decrease in our budget of 4-5 per cent."

Acton-Esquesing trustee Dave

Whiting, vice chair of the board, commended staff for their willingness to contribute a day's pay to reduce the expenditure budget and avoid lay offs of 75 people.

"Your donations show that you do put the greater good of all before yourselves and I can't begin to tell you how much I, and I'm sure my fellow trustees, appreciate your personal effort," he said in a statement Thursday.

New report fans debate on NEC

By ROB KELLY

Special to the Independent/Free Press

A hearing board charged with analyzing how well the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) is operating says regional government should take over part of the NEC mandate.

The panel's report, released Wednesday, is sure to fan the flames of a debate that's already raging hotly. The Niagara Escarpment Landowners Coalition (NELC) has for months been saying just what the hearing panel said earlier this week. The NEC and supporting citizens groups, on the other hand, have painted the NELC as laden with anti-environment developers.

The two factions have already fought some bitter pitched battles at Halton regional council. The NELC is attempting to have council endorse its strategy of wresting development control from the NEC and delegating it to the regional and county governments along the escarpment.

The debate has provoked a deep split among Halton councillors. The latest round in a seesaw struggle saw the NELC lose a 12-9 vote on delegation of powers earlier this month. But pro-delegation councillors were present in hopes of tipping the vote the other way.

Barbara Halsall is president of POWER (Protect Our Water and Environment Resources), a north Halton environmental activist organization determined to defend the NEC and derail the NELC.

The hearing panel's report was "most unfortunate," Halsall said, but "absolutely not" a mortal blow to her group's cause.

See REPORT, page 10



Jack TANNERS

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