

Missing Acton woman discovered at golf club

Police found an Acton woman Thursday morning who had been missing since Monday morning. Investigators do not suspect foul play.

The woman, 33-year-old Janine Stopforth of Norman Ave., was discovered at approximately 11 a.m. by an employee at Acton Meadows Golf Course, which is north on Dublin Line, said Det. Sgt. Ron Welsh. The golf course was closed for the season, but the employee was investigating a strange vehicle in

the parking lot. He found Stopforth sitting in her car, in a semi-conscious state.

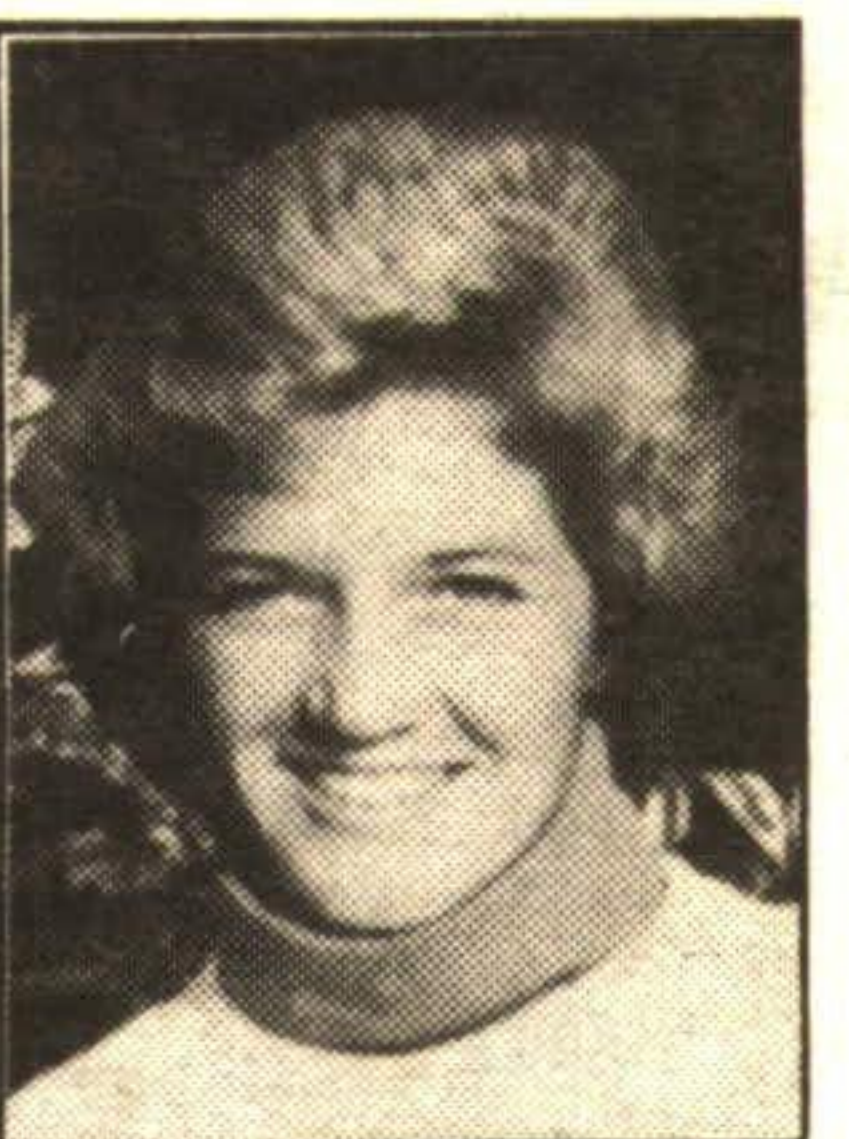
Stopforth was taken to Georgetown and District Hospital and later transferred by air ambulance to Hamilton General Hospital where she was admitted for severe frostbite and exposure. On Friday, Stopforth was listed in fair condition in the Burn-Trauma Unit.

Welsh said Stopforth was disoriented and confused when she was found, and had spent two or three

nights in her car. "Someone saw her car running while she was there; maybe that's what saved her life, I don't know," Welsh said.

According to the police Stopforth was last seen by her husband at 7:30 a.m. leaving for work.

Police are continuing their investigation, and need to talk to the woman to find out more about what happened.



JANINE STOPFORTH

HALTON HILLS

WEEKEND

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News

Digest

Stereo stolen

The side window of a 1992 Acura was broken and the stereo was removed overnight Feb. 3, police said. The car was parked on Delrex Blvd. and the stereo is estimated to be worth \$600. The thief also attempted to remove a spoiler but was unsuccessful.

Blood clinic

A Blood Clinic will be held Monday, Feb. 14, 1:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Church Auditorium in Georgetown. Please bring photo/signature I.D. along with your donor card. (e.g. driver's licence or Health Card).

Objection to bingo hall

At Monday's committee meeting council members supported a recommendation that a letter of objection be sent to the City of Mississauga regarding a proposed bingo hall on Dundas St. W. Halton Hills town clerk Janet Lunn Stewart said the hall in Mississauga could adversely affect the establishment of a hall in Halton Hills, which could mean local groups would lose the chance to raise funds through bingos. The recommendation has to receive formal council approval.

Spoiler taken

A green spoiler was taken from a 1993 Honda overnight Feb. 3. The rear hatch of the car parked on Prince Charles Dr. was opened after gaining entry by breaking a window, police said.

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My funny Valentine!



This year's winners of *The Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press Valentine's Day* contest were Georgetown residents, and very good sports, Kim and Mike Downton. Kim and Mike have been married for 10 years and have two daughters, Bailey, 5 and Holly, 3. Not only did Kim have to tell Mike she'd entered the contest four times — she had to tell him she won. More on page 15.
Photo by LAURA SALVERDA

Parents oppose decision

By KATHY YANCHUS
Special to *The Independent/Free Press*

If the Halton Board of Education wants to raise the ire of parents with their budget cut proposals, thereby obtaining their 'permission' to raise taxes, they have succeeded, charges parent Nancy Batchelor.

Batchelor, along with dozens of other parents, has jumped on the boards' proposal to offer kindergarten as a full day, alternate day program, something unacceptable to the parents who have deluged her with concerned calls. With this cut, the board would save \$67,400 in 1994 and \$231,750 on an annual basis.

"This is a decision strictly based on money and a quick bandaid fix," said Batchelor.

According to Batchelor, the board is basing its decision on an American report - Gullo and Clements, 1984 - which "found no significant differences between children in half-day, every day and full day every-other-day alternate programs when academic achievement, classroom social behavior and time spent in school were compared."

Batchelor is critical of the study, and believes it should not be used as a comparison for Canadian schools.

The 45 school boards who have implemented this practice in Ontario are in rural or remote areas where transportation becomes a factor, reminds Batchelor.

Batchelor is also concerned about the availability of sufficient numbers of teaching assistants.

If the board wishes to cut costs, they should scrutinize their own administrative costs and salaries, added Batchelor.

Batchelor urges concerned parents to sign petitions currently circulating throughout nursery schools, call their trustees and/or attend the finance committee meeting Feb. 14th to show their support.

THIS IS IT!

The Great Canadian Coat Sale

There's only a limited time left to take advantage of the great savings! Enjoy further reductions of up to 70% off msl on many Canadian-made leather, suede and shearling coats.



So hurry in and beat the cold with a great shearling coat, hat or pair of mitts — plus all our boots are also on sale! Our new hours are 11 am - 5 pm Daily, Friday 'til 9 pm.

HURRY!
Ends this
Sunday