

# WEEKEND

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 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1994 - VOL 9 - ISSUE 33 - 36 PAGES - 50¢ + G.S.T.

News

Digest

## Fire damages Acton home

A fire at an Agnes St. residence in Acton resulted in about \$45,000 damage Wednesday afternoon.

The owner of the house had been using a propane torch to do some soldering in his basement workshop before he went out to the store. When he returned, he saw smoke coming from the house and went to a neighbor's house, where the Halton Hills Fire Department was called.

The fire department said the man may have left the torch on, causing the fire.

About 18 firefighters spent an hour and a half fighting the blaze at 36 Agnes St. They were called to the scene at 1:36 p.m. There was extensive fire damage to the basement and heat and smoke damage upstairs. No one was inside the home at the time, but two cats died in the blaze, probably as a result of smoke inhalation. No one else was injured.

The fire department would not release the name of the homeowner.

### Light starts fire

An outside porch light at a Stewarttown Rd. residence started a small fire on the wall behind last Saturday at 7:30 p.m., the Halton Hills Fire Department said. They extinguished the fire. Damage was set at \$500.

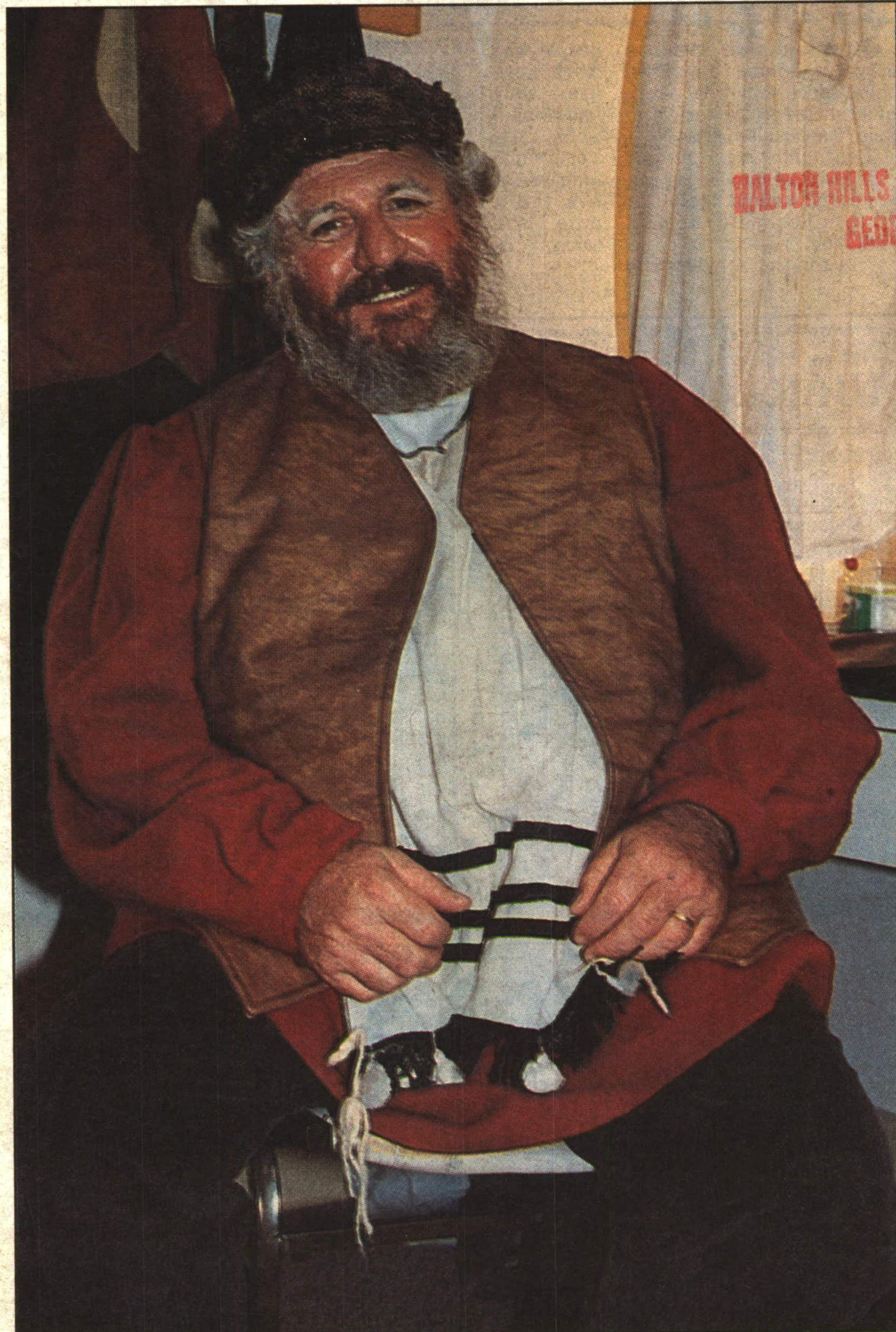
### Fashion show for charity

Today (Sunday, November 27), GDHS's OAC business class will be hosting a fashion show at the high school. The show, which starts at 1:30 pm, will feature models from around Halton Hills. Stores participating in the show include Elizabeth's Fashions, Joggers, Campus Crew, and Romeo Men's Fashions. Admission is \$2 per person, and all proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Society.

INSIDE

- 401 corridor study.....page 3
- Seeking the top job.....page 5
- Silent auction.....page 12
- Entertainment.....page 14
- Curling champs.....page 16

## 'If I were a rich man ....'



That's MP Julian Reed hiding behind the beard (it's real and took six months) and wearing early 19th century Jewish costume. He sang his heart out in the

musical, Fiddler on the Roof, at The Centre in the Square in Kitchener, playing the lead role. See page 11 for details. JANET BAINE Independent/Free Press

# Storm wreaks havoc

By JANET BAINE  
 Staff writer

The first snow storm of the year had traffic at a stand still Wednesday morning and everyone had a tale to tell by the time they got in to work.

At some points in the morning, there were whiteout conditions, but the main problem was hard packed snow which turned roads into skating rinks.

"We were bombarded with phone calls until around 10:30 a.m.," said Halton Regional Police Services desk clerk Sandra Cousens, who was working that morning in Georgetown.

The problem was that while flurries were in the forecast, it began snowing intensely at 5:30 a.m. and within a half hour there were already 3 to 4 cms, said Keith Smiley, the public works supervisor for the town. Within 20 minutes the sanders were out on the roads in Acton and Georgetown, but people had already started to head off to work. Heavy traffic packed the snow into ice and also prevented the sanders from getting through.

The most serious accident reported to Halton Regional Police was at 6:20 a.m. on Mill St. E. in Acton near Young St. An eastbound Dodge lost control on a curve and struck an oncoming Ford. Both cars were severely damaged, but there were no reports of injuries.

While traffic was slow at the Silvercreek hill, there were no accidents. There was a minor three-car collision on Hwy. 7 at Norval hill at 7 a.m., and another also involving three vehicles at 7:45 a.m. on 17 Sideroad and Trafalgar Rd. All the accident reports are not finished yet, so there is no final tally of the number of accidents.

Smiley said the works department has been anticipating winter for two weeks, and wasn't taken by surprise. If a storm hits at midnight, sanders and plows have time to clear the roads for the early morning traffic, but when snow doesn't begin to fall until 5:30 a.m., there's no time to get out onto the roads.

Cousens advised people to call the Ministry of Transportation for traffic conditions on snowy mornings. The number is 1-800-268-1376. Smiley advises people to be patient, drive slowly and make sure they have tires which can handle winter driving.



Wednesday thru Sunday

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