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Halton Hills award-winning newspaper serving Acton & Georgetown

72 Pages

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**SPORTS HALL OF FAME**  
Debbie Boycott and four others have been inducted into the Halton Hills Sports Museum's Hall of Fame. **Pg. 35**



**STAY HOME AND PLAY CAMPAIGN**  
The fundraising goal was met after some donations from three Acton businesses. **Pg. 19**



**CANDELIGHT TRIBUTES**  
Georgetown and Acton celebrated our fallen soldiers with Candlelight Tributes and silent walks. **Pg. 10**



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**MOTHER'S DAY TEA:** Enjoying Mother's Day Tea at Devereaux House is Mary Lou Gibson (at the head of the table) with her two daughters and two grand daughters. On the left are daughter Judy Gibson-Stoliar and grand daughter Isabella Stoliar and on the right, next to Mary Lou is her other daughter Susan Sell with grand daughter Katie Sell. Young Isabella even wore her best white gloves for the event! The Friends of Devereaux House put on the annual event in the historic farmhouse to honour mothers on this special day.

Photo by  
Ray Lavender

## Town staff reviewing raccoon distemper strategy

By **Nelia Raposo**  
Special to The IFP

Complaints from town residents in recent weeks involving sick raccoons on private property has prompted town council to review how it deals with this issue.

The community affairs committee presented council with a recommendation to amend the canine and wildlife services contract to include provisions for attending to sick or injured wildlife on private property on

Tuesday.  
Council agreed to contract Halton Hills Animal Control to provide the removal of sick animals from private properties as a trial for 18 months. The Town also agreed to purchase four large animal traps, at a cost of \$100 to \$150 per trap, to be rented to residents at a cost of \$5 per day, with an initial returnable deposit of \$100.

To tell residents to call MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources) is unacceptable. I think we need to expand the service, Mayor Rick Bon-

nette said at the last council meeting. It can destroy your pet, kill your dog. This is not like chasing a bird off your property. I think we need to do more.

Canine distemper is a virus that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of raccoons and other animals such as dogs. It is not transmitted to humans or cats, experts say. But unvaccinated pets are at risk of getting it by coming in contact with an affected animal or its bodily fluids.

At its worst, the disease may cause a raccoon to suffer neurological impairment, paralysis or death. It is often mistaken for rabies by onlookers.

We are not really in the hot zone for raccoon rabies but we are in the surveillance area, Douglas Campbell, Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, Veterinarian, said from his office in Guelph. Nobody wants to have any contact with a raccoon that is acting strangely anyway. This is best left to a professional.

Continued on page 11

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