

Permit required for open air burning

By: Harry Rudolfs

Summer is the time for barbecues, cookouts and campfires. But Halton Hills residents should understand that open-air fires are not allowed unless you have a valid Open Air Burn Permit which can be obtained from the Halton Hills Fire Department.

According to Deputy Chief Harry Olivieri, "Small, confined fires that are used to cook food on a grille, bbq or spit... is permitted. Anything else, like a campfire, fire pit, etc. must be approved in Halton Hills." Olivieri went on to explain that certified fuel-fired appliances like propane/natural

gas heaters and fire tables are exempt.

However, chimeneas and other self-contained burning devices sold by some retailers, that are not used to cook food require Open Air Burn Permits. This may come as a surprise to some people, as these devices are marketed as backyard fireplaces, but they cannot be legally fired up in Halton Hills without a permit said Olivieri.

Recreational and residential burn permits are available for \$25, while commercial or construction companies have to pay \$245 for their permits. There is no charge for permits issued to farms.

Even with a permit,

regulations have to be followed. Your campfire cannot cause discomfort to other persons; cause loss of enjoyment to normal use of property; interfere with the normal conduct of business; or impair visibility on any public road or highway.

Failure to abide by these rules may result in your fire being extinguished, revocation of future permits, service charges being applied, or charges being laid under the Fire Prevention and Protection Act. "Fires must always be attended, conducted in a non-combustible enclosure, and a means of extinguishment has to be readily available," added Olivieri.

Five youths charged after street robbery

A group of Georgetown young offenders are facing charges for their role in a targeted street robbery.

Shortly before midnight on May 26 Halton Police responded to the area of Barber Drive and Danby Road—Georgetown—after concerned citizens reported a group of youths walking through the neighbourhood carrying baseball bats and making utterances about attacking someone.

As uniformed officers descended on the area further information was reported that a male youth was being beaten by the group on a pathway behind a residential area. Police learned that during the assault the suspects had not used the baseball bats but had punched the victim several times causing minor injuries. Further,

the suspects had stolen the victim's backpack prior to fleeing the area.

As police arrived, two youths were immediately taken into custody. Members of the 1 District Criminal Investigation Bureau took carriage of the investigation and over the following days identified and arrested three more youths who were responsible for the robbery. The investigation revealed all parties were known to each other and the robbery allegedly centered around the sale of marihuana.

At the conclusion of this investigation a total of five Georgetown youths—whose identity cannot be disclosed under the provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act—were charged with robbery and possessing a weapon for a dangerous purpose. They

were all released from custody and will appear in court later this month.

Anyone who may have information about this investigation is asked to contact Detective Paul Harrower at the 1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-825-4747 ext. 2491.

Tips can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers "See something? Hear something? Know something? Contact Crime Stoppers" at 1-800-222-477 (TIPS) or through the web at www.haltoncrimestoppers.ca.

Please be reminded that all persons charged are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



SERVICE RECOGNITION: Retiring Cadets WO2 James Cargill, WO2 Alessio Luna, F/Sgt Carson Caddell, F/Sgt Jack Mowat and Sgt Isaac Daleman receive plaques for their service from Captain Scott Legge at the Acton Air Cadets 197 Typhoon Squadron's 34th Annual Inspection on Sunday. - Alex Hilson photo

Library announces seed libraries

The Halton Hills Public Library is excited to announce their Seed Library Program, which will be available to the public beginning on June 2.

The Georgetown Branch Seed Library is sponsored by the Downtown Georgetown Farmers' Market and BIA in celebration of their 25th anniversary this year, and the Acton Branch Seed Library is sponsored by the Town of Halton Hills Office of Sustainability. The Acton Community Garden, in partnership with the library, has also generously donated seed packets from Moonfire Farm, Urban Harvest, and William Dam Seed Companies.

Seed libraries are public library-led initiatives in which seeds are borrowed by community members, free of charge, from a shared repository. Seed libraries also encourage the return or donation of seeds harvested from plants grown from borrowed

seeds in order to promote sustainability, improve local biodiversity, and foster a sense of shared community. Members of the community can take home packets of seeds to plant in their own gardens, with the request to return harvested seeds in the fall.

"We are thrilled to provide access to free herb, fruit, vegetable, and flower seeds that will promote our community's sustainability initiatives, environmental stewardship efforts, and overall well-being," said Lee Puddephatt, Community Librarian. "The Downtown Georgetown Farmers' Market and the Town of Halton Hills Of-

fice of Sustainability are essential partners helping to make the library a community hub and innovation center for everyone."


The Halton Hills Public Library is currently accepting donations of seeds from community members to be dropped off at either branch. Following the launch of the Seed Libraries on June 2 at the Georgetown Farmers' Market opening, both Seed Libraries will be available to the public at the Georgetown and Acton branches, and at outreach events throughout the summer, including every Saturday at the Georgetown Farmers' Market.

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