

Committee rethinks Hitmen name after seeing record poll response on IFP.ca

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Sometimes, in the old mob movies or on the popular TV show *The Sopranos*, even the Hitmen get clipped once in a while.

That's precisely what happened this past weekend to the proposed nickname for the traveling rep teams that will represent the newly-formed Halton Hills Minor Hockey Association (HHMHA) beginning in September.

After a storm of controversy overwhelmingly against using Hitmen as the new name for the HHMHA, an emergency meeting held last Friday by the committee charged to come up with the moniker changed its decision to the Thunder.

Social media sites and the *Independent & Free Press* were flooded with critical opinions of the choice of Hitmen last week and a poll conducted on this newspaper's website received a record number of votes (nearly 450), almost 90 per cent of which indicating that the name was inappropriate due to its violent and sexist connotations.

"The committee was pretty reasonable about it," said Georgetown Minor Hockey

Association president Carson Mininch. "They said that they had seen all the letters and blogs and the poll in *The Independent* and decided it was best to go with the second most-popular name, which was the Thunder."

At a meeting Friday night, the HHMHA officially announced that Hitmen would be the nickname for traveling rep teams comprised of players from the soon-to-be former Georgetown and Acton youth organizations.

A contest to come up with a name for the new association was held last month at a fundraising hockey game for the Halton Hills Arena Users Group called the Coaches' Cup. Youth members were provided with a list to choose from potential names consisting of the Heat, Hazard, Thunder, Hitmen, Raiders, Ice Hogs and Hammerheads.

According to organizers of the vote, close to 700 votes in favour of Hitmen were received.

Blake Ghesquiere of Georgetown's minor bantam AA Raiders was named the initial contest winner for choosing Hitmen and he'll still receive a free registration for next season.

Town warns: Be aware of coyotes

It's that time of year when a shortage of food or breeding habits can draw coyotes closer to residents' homes and the Town of Halton Hills is urging residents to be vigilant.

"Coyotes adapt well to our urban and rural environments but homeowners can take some steps to make their property less appealing to the animals" said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "I urge residents to keep their dogs on a leash when using local trails, especially in areas where signs have been posted by the Town."

Aggressive behaviour towards people is unusual for coyotes, but people should always exercise caution around wildlife. If a coyote poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety, call 911.

It is not usual for coyotes to be sighted, especially in natural areas like Hungry Hollow or along the Bruce Trail:



- If you encounter a coyote, don't turn your back and run from a coyote, but be loud, wave your arms and scare it away.
- Homeowners should not leave their dog or cat unattended in their yards, especially at night.

If there are overflowing trash containers in a park or along a trail, residents are encouraged to advise the Town at 905-873 2601 ext. 2603.

BAZAAR

SAT FEB 23 10-2

Enter To **WIN** a **GIFT BASKET**
with cash donation to Hope for Life Pregnancy Care Centre.

FREE EVENT
Donations accepted for Georgetown Bread Basket

FACE PAINTING
\$5

FEATURING OVER 25 VENDORS OF HOME BASED BUSINESSES & LOCAL CRAFTERS

St. George's Church
(Beside GDHS)
60 Guelph St., Georgetown

ALL FOR FUN AND FUN FOR ALL

MARCH BREAK

March 11 to 15, 2013

Join Town of Halton Hills Recreation & Parks for a fun-filled week of activities!

Adventure Splash n' Fun

A week long day camp for 7 to 12 year olds at Gellert Community Centre. Keep them enthused and active each day! Crafts, games, swimming, special guests and a bus trip! Pre-registration required.

Spots still left in pre-registered programs!

DASH Sports Clinics - March 14

Active fun for 3 to 6 year olds at Gellert Community Centre. Pre-registration required.

Take the Bronze Challenge

Advanced Lifesaving offered at Georgetown Indoor Pool. Bronze Star • Bronze Medallion • Bronze Cross
Pre-registration required.

FREE Recreational Swimming - 1:30 to 3:00 pm

at Acton Lion's Indoor Pool and Gellert Community Centre
Sponsored by Tim Hortons

Regular winter swimming schedule continues through March Break except for the following cancelled swims at Gellert:

Mon/Wed/Fri	Lane Swim	10 am
Wed/Fri	55+ Swim	1 pm

Recreational Skating - 2:00 to 3:20 pm

at all 3 Halton Hills Arenas - Acton Arena & Community Centre, Georgetown Memorial and Mold-Masters SportsPlex. Admission and admittance policy applies.

Regular winter skating schedule is mainly cancelled over March Break. Refer to the Town website for recreational skating details.

Program Hotline: 905-873-2601, x2275
www.haltonhills.ca/recandparks