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THURSDAY

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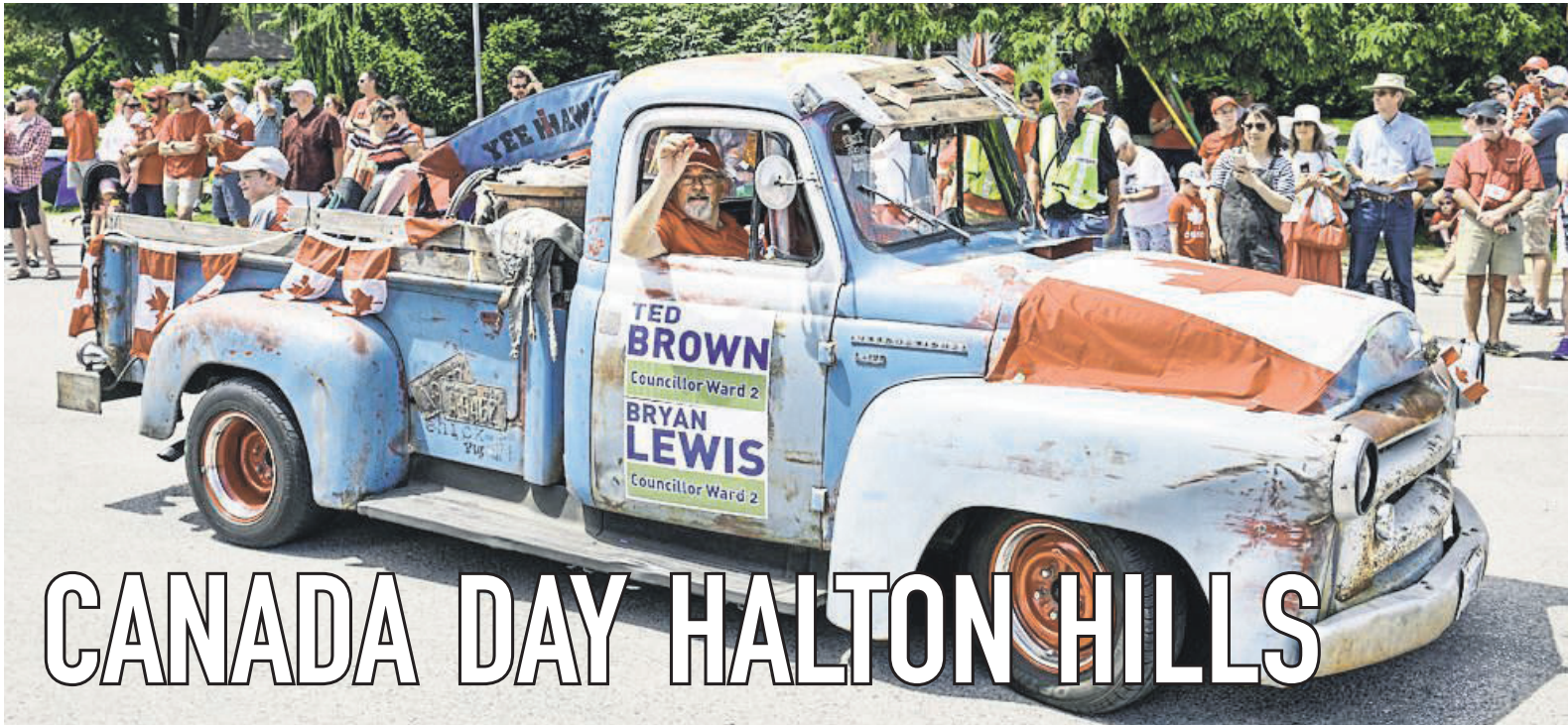


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CANADA DAY HALTON HILLS

Ray Lavender photo

Councillor Ted Brown waves from a rustic vehicle not much younger than Confederation during the Glen Williams Canada Day Parade on Monday. The parade featured representation from the various levels of government, animals, music, dancers and even a boat. More photos on page 5.

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NEWS

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HALTON URGED TO ADDRESS OVERDOSES WITH DRUG TEST KITS

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A local harm reduction advocate is calling on Halton Region to provide fentanyl test kits to drug users in the hopes of preventing overdoses and deaths.

Alexander Kinkade - founder of

anti-OD.org - made the request during a recent regional council meeting, where he stressed the importance of taking steps to combat the local effects of opioids.

"Many people in the community that we know, care for and love are dying from overdoses at such a rate that we should not find acceptable," he said, pointing to the

40 opioid-related deaths in Halton last year. "I'd like test kits to be provided to users to ensure safe consumption because naloxone kits, medical intervention and funerals are not needed when an issue can be prevented."

Kinkade, who experienced a personal loss due to an opioid overdose, explained the kits would al-

low users to test their own drugs for fentanyl - a deadly substance used by dealers to make things like heroin and cocaine stronger - and then decide whether to ingest the substance or not.

"People are going to use drugs or narcotics, whether they're ille-

See 'DEATHS, page 4

OPINION

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