

# Children back to school: watch for crossing guards

It's that time of year again. Schoolchildren everywhere head back to classes and crossing guards hope fervently that traffic will pay attention to them as they help the kids get safely to school.

"They see us standing there but it's like we're not there," said

crossing guard Elaine Frei, who mans the busy intersection at Mountainview Road and Delrex Blvd.

Frei and the 22 other full-time Halton Hills crossing guards only request that drivers slow down and obey their signs, which are legal

stop signs.

"You can get a ticket," cautioned Frei, seeking driver cooperation. "We have a job to do. We only want to get the kids to school safely."

Under the Highway Traffic Act, crossing guards have the "authority

to control traffic for the purpose of assisting children in crossing the road, Sergeant Joe Martin, media relation officer for Halton Regional Police said.

"There have been instances where vehicles brush the guards as they stand in the intersection or nar-

rowly miss the crossing children," Sgt. Martin said. "Some are obviously deliberate acts."

But physical danger is not the only threat to the guards who "are also frequently subjected to verbal insults from impatient and abusive

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*Halton Hills*

# THIS WEEK

Vol. 1, No. 12 Wednesday, September 9, 1992

32 pages



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Georgetown's Gerry and Maxine Presseault hold a copy of their \$1,181,581 cheque after winning last Wednesday's Lotto 649. To date the couple's only plan is to purchase a new home and truck.

## Couple wins \$1.1-million

By Wendy Long

A young Georgetown couple are amazed that they hit the lottery jackpot last week.

"We still can't believe it," Maxine Presseault said Friday morning, 24 hours after she and her husband Gerry learned they had won over \$1-million in last Wednesday's Lotto 649.

"We were all just shaking - we couldn't believe it. We didn't sleep last night."

The news was that much sweeter for Gerry, who has been unemployed since last September when he was laid off from his position as an assistant plant manager at a graphics company.

Gerry spent \$5 late Wednesday afternoon, purchasing five quick picks from the Quick Pik Variety Store on Guelph Street.

Thursday morning, job hunting, he cut a want ad out of a Toronto daily and asked Maxine if she'd type a cover letter for it.

"Have you checked the numbers yet?" Maxine asked.

Lo and behold, there was the winning number — the fifth of the five quick picks.

Maxine and Gerry ran downstairs to wake Gerry's parents, who live beneath them.

Maxine, who is a systems administrator at a local company, called work to say she wouldn't be in.

The Presseaults then drove into Toronto to claim their \$1,181,581.40.

"Gerry was getting pretty depressed there," said Maxine. "He actually just got a rejection letter this morning, which is pretty funny. He used to tell me getting a job

would be like winning the lottery - but I don't know, this is a bit better."

They banked the money and spent the rest of the day fielding a storm of phone calls from well wishers and the media.

"We're not going to make any rash decisions right away," Maxine said.

The Presseaults are going to contact financial advisors and figure out what they're going to do with the money.

"We haven't spent a lot of time discussing it yet," said Gerry. "But we're not going to change our lifestyle."

"I still have to do housework," laughed Maxine. "All I ever wanted was a little house with a little pool and a fireplace. Gerry needs a new car - he wants a truck."

## Residents question Prospect Park arena location

By Dianne Cornish

possible heading—Residents question Prospect Park arena location

By Dianne Cornish

Acton residents showed their concern over the possibility that a new arena could be built at Prospect Park during a meeting last Wednesday.

Most people who spoke at the meeting were concerned about further growth of recreational facilities at the Park, decreased access to the shoreline of Fairy Lake and increased traffic on nearby streets.

Acton's current arena, a 67-year-old building that needs continual upgrading because of structural problems, is located in Prospect Park.

In a report on arena site choices presented to town council two weeks ago, Parks and Recreation Director Tom Shepard suggested that among sites under consideration was Prospect Park, with the new sports complex being built just feet away from the present arena but closer to the lake's edge.

Other locations being considered are a 12.5 acre-parcel of land in north Acton, situated north of McDonald Boulevard and west of Wallace Street, and an eight-acre parcel near the town's eastern boundary, just east of Churchill Road and north of Highway 7. The northern site lands have been donated by Frank Heller and Company Ltd. and F.C. Dawkins Ltd., while the eastern location is owned by an Acton developer and must be purchased by the town, if chosen as the arena site.

A Knox Avenue resident, after citing traffic concerns arising from increased use of the park if the arena complex is built at Prospect Park, also alluded to the importance

of the area as a park.

"We're losing sight of the park side of this land and getting more into (establishing) recreational facilities," he charged.

People attending the meeting were upset and frustrated by the requirements of public agencies in preparing sites for construction and by unavoidable delays associated with re-zoning the lands at the eastern and northern candidate sites. Others spoke in favor of retaining the aesthetics of Prospect Park and keeping the green space rather than covering it with recreational buildings.

When Shepard told the group that need for re-zoning lands at the eastern and northern locations could mean a six to eight month delay, a man in the audience commented: "We've been talking about this (arena construction) for six years and it's going to take six to eight months to re-zone?"

Shepard said re-zoning has to go through "the public process" and it would take, at the least five months.

"That's with no objections (from residents living near the proposed building)," he warned.

During his preliminary comments, the recreation director said that a delay of four or five months means the project would be held up for a year. As it stands now, a new arena could be open by the fall of 1994 if everything proceeds smoothly and a site is chosen by town council later this month.

However, there's a possible roadblock looming in the future and Shepard cautioned those attending the meeting that "because council passed the arena, doesn't mean we're going to get it." He prefaced his comment with concerns about impending large expenditures fac-

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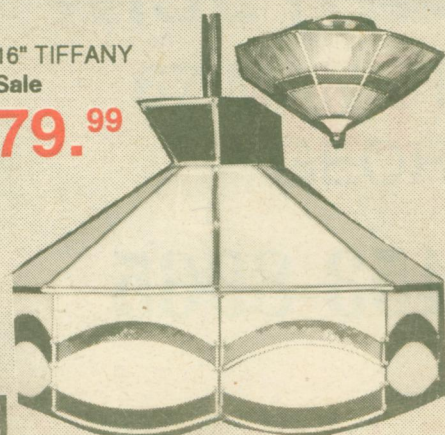
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