

Pro Shop heist

Monday morning, a few minutes after midnight, two people broke in to the Pro shop at the Blue Springs Golf and Country Club just outside of Acton and made off with approximately \$10,000 worth of merchandise.

According to a police report, the motion detector was set off at two minutes after midnight when a rock was thrown through the south east window. The first suspect apparently crawled through the window and opened the fire door for the accomplice.

The report stated that a large vehicle was pulled up to the door, loaded up with stolen goods, and driven away within five minutes.

All of the items were still in boxes, awaiting inventory counts. According to Craig Guthrie, director of the golf club, the shop will still open for the season Friday as planned.

Among the items stolen were 75 dozen golf balls, golf clubs, clothing including imported golf shirts valued at \$135 each, and "Footjoy" golf shoes.

"It appears the suspects left in a

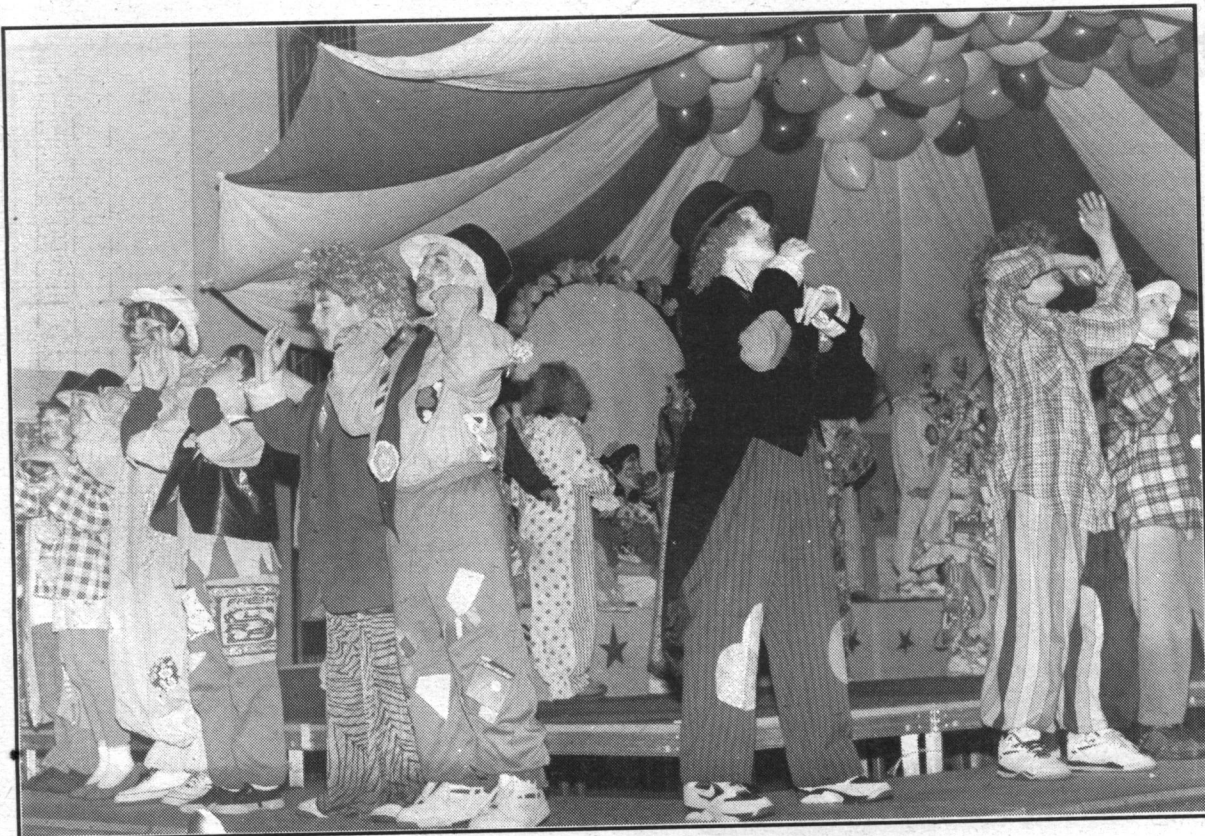
hurry," explained Halton Regional Police Service Staff Sergeant Mike Kingston, of Georgetown 11 Division. "They left quite a bit of property behind."

"It's too premature to discuss future preventive measures," Guthrie explained. "Our existing security system is very effective, but there's not much you can do for a quick in and out job."

Caledon crash

A pilot and three passengers, flying from Hamilton airport to the Brampton Flying Club Monday night, crashed in a heavily wooded area in Caledon, around 11 p.m. due to foggy and rainy conditions, according to police.

The pilot, Isidro Lourenco of Brampton, was killed instantly. Dan Goheen and Steve Smith, both from Oshawa, were taken to Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital with non life-threatening injuries. Vavor Grabovac, from Mississauga, walked away from the accident.



Park school production

Georgetown's Park Public School presented 'We're the Clowns' Monday afternoon, a venture that was truly a total school effort involving students and teachers in every aspect of the production. A second show was staged Tuesday evening, with the third and final presentation scheduled for this evening (Wednesday) at 7 p.m.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Halton Hills

THIS WEEK

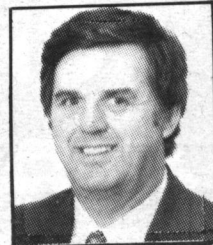
Vol. 1, No. 43

Wednesday, April 21, 1993

32 pages

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Non-smoking bylaw close to reality

By Oksana Buhel

A proposed no-smoking by-law for commercial establishments met with much discussion at Monday's Town of Halton Hills general committee meeting. Peter Wilmott, director of protection for Halton region, presented statistics regarding the ratio of smokers to non-smokers, the number of deaths linked to first and secondhand smoke, and trends associated with smoking.

He was challenged by business owners who presented personal interpretations on why a non-smoking decision should be made by individual proprietors and not by the town.

Rosalie Radyk, representing the Georgetown and Acton Bowls, insisted that her Georgetown establishment would go out of business if such a by-law was implemented. "I'm a non-smoker," she admitted. "I even have a non-smoking league which plays at the Georgetown Bowl. But I won't hold off 50% of the lanes for non-smokers if a smoker comes in and wants to use them. I can't afford to do that."

The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce submitted an appeal to the general committee requesting

that the by-law not be considered until certain considerations be addressed. HHCC was concerned that the by-law, which would be difficult to enforce, would be a waste of money and manpower, and that municipalities which have enacted a similar by-law were not asked to report on its cost and success. In a letter, HHCC asked whether the right to smoke in a commercial establishment should not be the decision of the owner and clientele, whether education into the effects of smoking is not a better direction to follow, and if this piece of legislation would not hinder businesses which are already experiencing trying times.

The organization also voiced its concern that the proposed by-law was not distributed to all affected businesses and the public.

Councillor Robert Heaton insisted that these concerns be addressed before any decisions were made. His concerns were overlooked when Wilmott explained that 300 questionnaires were sent out to the businesses in Halton Hills, and that not one response was received.

Mayor Miller supported Heaton's belief that proprietors should decide what is best for their business. "Why does the government have to

push its control over this issue? It seems that because we are close to large metropolitan areas, we must follow the same policies they do," he said.

Most councillors were inclined to have the motion deferred for a few weeks, but councillors Marilyn Serjeantson and Pam Johnston insisted it was important the public knew which stand the council was taking and be given some time to express concerns.

By a 10-2 vote, it was agreed the proposed by-law be considered for retail stores, shopping mall concourses, in service lines, reception areas, and in elevators, escalators or stairways.

Councillors Al Cook and Robert Heaton opposed the motion. Councillor Rick Bonnette did't vote, declaring a conflict of interest.

Following further deliberation, council agreed the wording of the by-law segment which deals with non-smoking sections in restaurants be changed from 50% to "a section."

Ratification of the proposed non-smoking bylaw is expected to take place this Monday's regular council meeting.

Town gets tough

Council Briefs

Town of Halton Hills Deputy Treasurer Grant Usher presented a report which stated that the collection of realty taxes is becoming an increasing problem and made the recommendation that the policy for business tax collection procedures for Halton Hills be amended accordingly.

The first amendment which Usher proposed was that current offenders be given 21 days to pay unpaid taxes. After this period, a bailiff may seize goods and chattels. Councillor Anne Currie described the time limit as "ridiculous" and recommended that it be extended to 90 days.

Councillor Rennie agreed, and called the practice "Draconian." Usher insisted that seizing property after 21 days would not be a standard practice, and assured members of the committee that bailiffs would be individually instructed on how to deal with situations.

Councillor Rennie objected, stating that "even if the policy was not practiced, this is what the report would say."

Councillor Gail Rutherford expressed concern as to whether

the offenders were currently in business, or would the bailiffs be pursuing individuals who had declared bankruptcy. She suggested that a policy be established which entitles the town treasurer to seize due taxes if a business declares bankruptcy. Usher pointed out this would not be effective. "We're the last to be told if someone is going out of business," he explained.

The recommendation was carried after councillor Bill Robson snapped, "If you can't pay your taxes, you shouldn't be in business."

Roads re-evaluated

Peter Linn, manager of engineering services, made a verbal report regarding the criteria by which roads are selected for reconstruction. This was in response to last week's petition by Windsor Rd. and Carole St. residents claiming their roads had been dropped from the capital forecast. Pinn explained that roads are classified according to "need," - either immediate, 1-5 years, or

Continued on page 2

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