

Senior up on sex charges

A 63-year-old Georgetown man was charged April 27 with the sexual assault of an 8-year-old Erin girl. The assault took place April 17 at the suspect's house, while the girl, a non-related family member, was visiting. The man was charged with sexual assault, sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching, and could face a prison term of 14 years. He will appear in court May 31.

The name of the accused was not released by police in order to protect the identity of the young victim.

PCBs on the move

The controversy regarding the transfer of PCBs from Dresden to Acton continues to swirl.

Peter Goddard, vice-president of Maple Leaf Foods, announced Tuesday morning he was planning to conclude the transfer on Friday, (yesterday) at the latest. Unfortunately, at press time, Halton Hills This Week could not confirm the transfer had actually taken place.

This contradicts Grant Yarrow's statement (he is the senior environment officer for the Ministry of the Environment) that the transfer has been called off because the Acton Beardmore Tannery site has been decommissioned.

Goddard insisted the site has not been decommissioned. "It depends what you mean by 'decommissioned'," he explained. "We're undertaking tests and cleaning the area, but it has not been decommissioned."

Goddard said he was not familiar with Yarrow, and that Maple Leaf Foods was dealing with John Budz, district director for the ministry. Goddard maintains he personally prepared Budz's instructions. "John Budz's instructions are to call off the move, for the present time," he claimed. "If Maple Leaf proceeds with the transfer, they'll be violating the environmental protection act."



Ready to write

Members of the 5th Georgetown East Co. Girl Guides (from left) Stephanie Power, Melanie Frei and Rachel McBride, prepared to draft their stories as part of their Reporter's Badge at a meeting, attended by Halton Hills This Week reporter, Oksana Buhel, who described a day in the life of a journalist.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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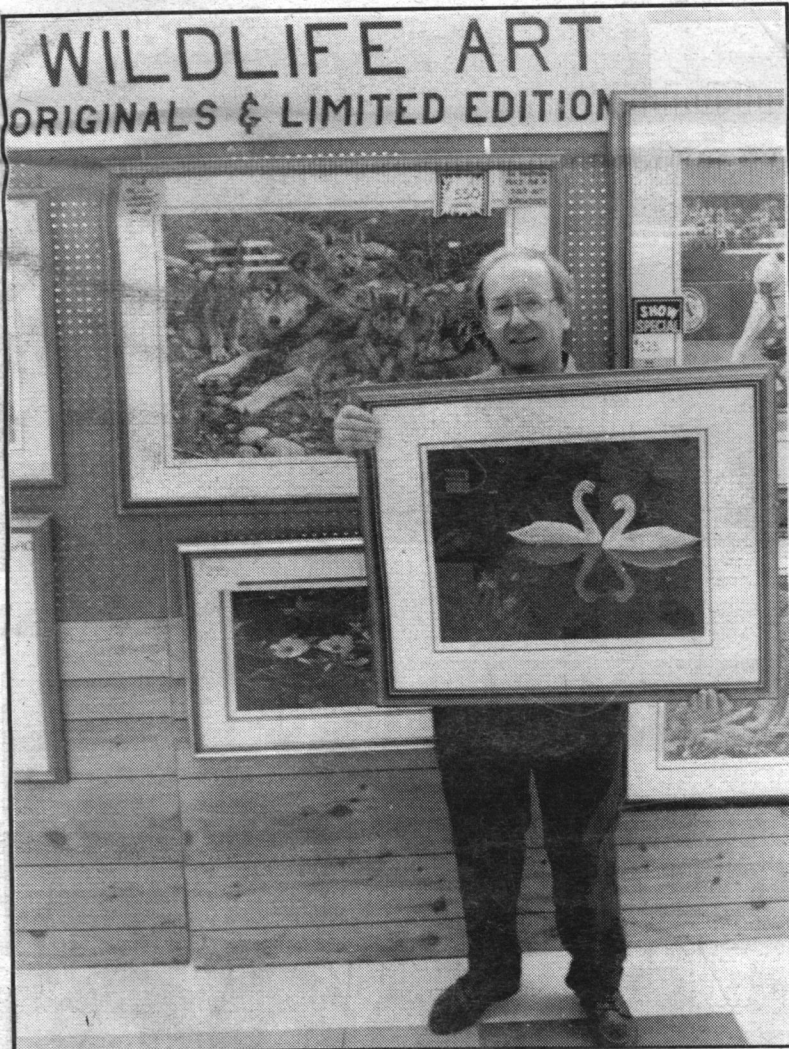
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Local wildlife artist John Harrington was part of the Art Show staged last Saturday at Georgetown Marketplace.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Trustee proposes integrated school boards

By Oksana Buhel

Halton Board of Education trustee Marg Bullock of Oakville believes the best way for rate payers to save money is for both the public and catholic boards to integrate under one public school board.

This message was relayed in her notice of motion presented April 29 to the board, requesting the Halton Board of Education delegate trustees to prepare a brief and deliver it to the Fair Tax Commission June 3.

The mandate of the Fair Tax Commission (FTC) is to review the Ontario tax system and make recommendations to improve its fairness. Public participation is to play an important role in the development of the proposals.

"The government wants public input," Bullock explained, "and there are many interested trustees who want to have their say. Personally, I'm going to urge the union of the Halton Board of Education and the Halton Roman Catholic School Board under one unified public education system."

Bullock explained that in this manner, there will only be a need for one board, one purchasing system, one superintendent - all of

which will result in a financial saving. "Instead of becoming more efficient, the present two-school system is more diverse," she claimed. She adds the only manner in which efficiency can be implemented is through a provincial mandate.

She admits the HRCSB will

probably not be receptive to the idea, but she believes the board's right to teach religion will not be affected. Bullock is not certain how the arrangement will work, but insists that "even though we'll have to work towards the end very slowly, over time it will become smooth running."

Developers face new fees

By Oksana Buhel

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board approved the outline of the Education Development Charges by-law at Tuesday evening's board meeting. Connie Kilgour, principal partner of C.N. Watson and Associates, presented the outline, which will be disclosed at a public meeting June 8.

The new by-law, which would be enforced by region municipalities, will be applied at the building permit stage, will replace charges of lot levies with levy charges for development. Developers will be paying an additional levy of \$293 per residence and 1.3% for commercial lots, over and above the existing regional and municipal fee.

Joe Birett, superintendent of

business services and treasurer for the HRCSB, explained the purpose of the EDC by-law is to produce another source of revenue in an attempt to fund the local share of school development.

"Right now, almost all our revenues come from ratepayers," Birett stated, "and we want to take the burden off them."

The Halton Board of Education is working on a similar by-law. In fact, of the 1.3% which will be collected from commercial developments, 0.84% will be for the public board, and 0.19% will be for the Roman Catholic board. "These figures are related to projections of future growth," explained Birett. "The need for Catholic schools is not that great, so that's why we won't be getting as much."

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