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BIG WINNERS! Tournament MVP Jay Hodder (left) and 7-year-old Peter Glatt get together following the Lions Club annual ball tournament at Prospect Park on Saturday. Peter holds the lucky ticket that won him a new video camera in a Lions Club raffle. The Georgetown Elks won the tourney final. See page 11 for more.

Acton quarry dump hearing wraps up

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

Lawyers outnumbered interested citizens as the preliminary hearing into a proposed private-owned dump in an Acton quarry wrapped up Friday at the Acton Legion.

The three-member board adjourned without making any decision on three motions — one from Halton Hills, one from Halton Region and the third from the environmental group Furiously Opposed to Acton Dumping (FOAD).

The citizen groups turned a usually routine preliminary hearing into a precedent-setting test of Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act. The motions ask the joint board deciding the fate of the landfill application to kill it before it is even heard.

Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) wants to operate a landfill for all of Ontario in the mined-out portion of the Acton quarry. Local politicians, several rate-payer groups and local residents fear the proposed dump could harm the water supply for north Halton.

After the hearing, FOAD lawyer Doug Edward argued that the proposal should not be allowed to proceed to a full consolidated

board hearing because RSI has not provided all of the information necessary in its environmental assessment.

"This is the first private proponent trying to get a landfill under the Environmental Assessment Act. Private proponents are going to be either judged on the same criteria as municipalities and other government agencies in terms of doing something as risky as operating a landfill, or they are not. In plain terms, we say they must be judged on the same criteria because risk is so great that not to judge them on the same criteria would be foolhardy," Edward said.

Edward says RSI has not complied with the legislation because it did not investigate alternate sites. The Environmental Assessment Act says the best possible landfill site must be sought, while RSI is just trying to make its pre-selected site meet standards for a landfill.

"This proponent didn't want to spend the money to do the job and they say so. They are trying to get to a hearing quickly to avoid time and money," Edward argued at the end of the seven-day hearing.

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Local smokers may have to butt out

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK

At the urging of the Halton Health department, Halton Hills politicians will look into a smoking bylaw for public places including financial institutions, retail shops, hospitals and municipal facilities open to the public.

Last night (Monday) Halton Hills director of environmental health, Peter Willmott used some staggering statistics to persuade General Committee members to agree to study a possible ban.

"In Ontario alone in 1992 there

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