

**Eden Place**  
Now available  
Teak patio furniture!

POTTERY & COUNTRY ACCENTS

(519) 856-4222

Open Tues. thru Sun. Noon to 5 p.m.

103 York Street  
Eden Mills, Ont. NOB 1P0



# The North Halton Compass

**Rockmosa**  
Community Centre  
When a little more means a lot...

Weddings • Parties  
• Business Functions

Smoke Free Environment  
Wheelchair Accessible  
Licensed Capacity 300

(519) 856-9000  
Main Street North, Rockwood

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

"A RURAL PAPER TO CALL OUR OWN"

MAY 28, 1999

## OMB hearings costly

Town of Halton Hills releases 1998 figures

BY STELLA BRYANT  
THE COMPASS

Figures released by the Town of Halton Hills for costs incurred at 1998 Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings appear to bear out the notion that the time is ripe for the town to consider a change in the way it handles its development applications.

The OMB adjudicates disputes between municipalities and developers. All costs to a municipality are borne by its taxpayers.

According to Steve Andrews, the town's chief administrative officer, of the 15 OMB hearings in 1998 five required staff time but no legal or other professional costs, while ten incurred consulting and/or legal costs. Some hearings were carried into 1999.

Which means that while the town had budgeted \$75,000 for its 1998 OMB legal and consulting costs, taxpayers actually picked up a \$218,000 tab.

Although costs for the year to date are not available, the total for 1999 promises to be a whopper. Andrews, who says the Georgetown South industrial land conversion hearing is

the town's biggest hit because of the complexity of the case, puts the costs to date from lawyers and consultants at approximately \$297,000, with almost \$47,000 of that being paid out in 1998.

(The developer, Halton Hills Village Homes Inc., appealed to the OMB in the matter of the town's opposition to its request to redesignate 340 acres of industrial land to residential. The decision on the hearing is expected the first week of June.)

"Costs for hearings include legal fees and consultant fees, expenses and disbursements but do not include staff time. There are costs associated with preparing for a hearing, time spent at a hearing and time after a hearing implementing a Board decision," says Andrews.

When an OMB hearing involves the Region of Halton's participation - in regional issues such as urban boundaries, water, waste water, etc. - members of its corporate counsel and planning staff appear. As well, they often are on hand to explain to a hearing officer

why there is no regional issue involved in a particular case. But, just as THH staff time is not calculated in the hearing costs, there is no charge-back by the Region to the town for legal assistance and staff time.

Ward 4 councillor Ron Chatten, who believes that the town must find a better way to handle its new development applications, is as concerned with the time that town staff spends on OMB hearings as he is with the legal costs.

"When staff are consumed with preparations and attendances at hearings," says Chatten, "they are simply not available to residents who need to come into the planning department to conduct regular business."

Chatten, who believes that council should be aware of new development applications far earlier than the present system allows, is in favour of negotiation as a means of settling disputes between developers and planners.

With the town's escalating OMB costs, many THH residents will agree with him.

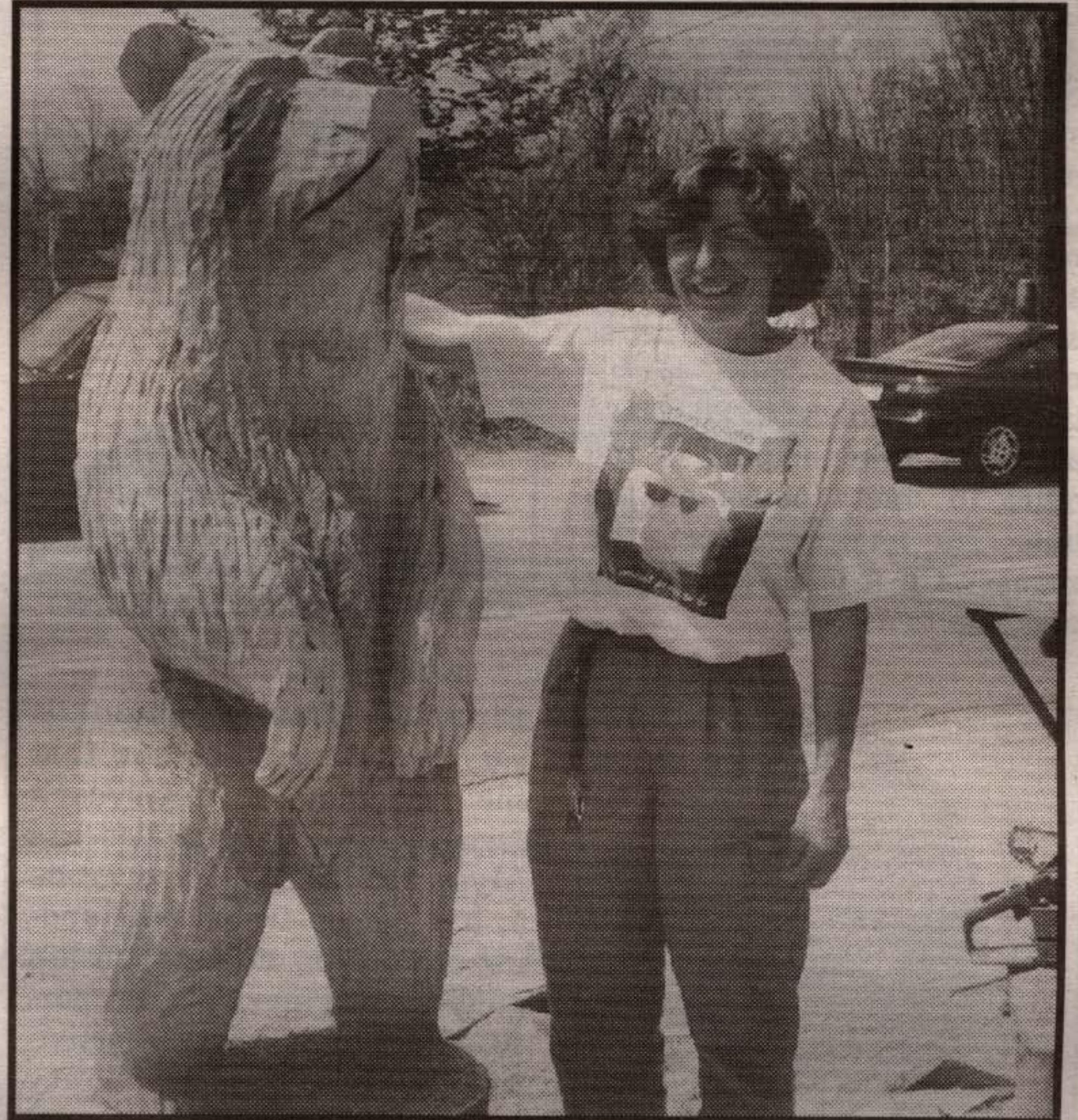


PHOTO BY DEBORAH QUAIL

**BEAUTIFUL BIG BRUIN** - The fragrance of cedar chips filled the air as Julie Pomeroy of Canoe Country, Norval posed with her new bear, carved from cedar with a chainsaw by Peter Mogensen of Chain Saw Sculptures. The bear was carved at Riverfest on Saturday, May 15th.

### Inside This Month's Compass

#### Everyday Heroes

Milton resident Jim Dills recently received the Lifetime Achievement award from the Milton Chamber of Commerce. For many years his family owned *The Canadian Champion* and *The Acton Free Press*.

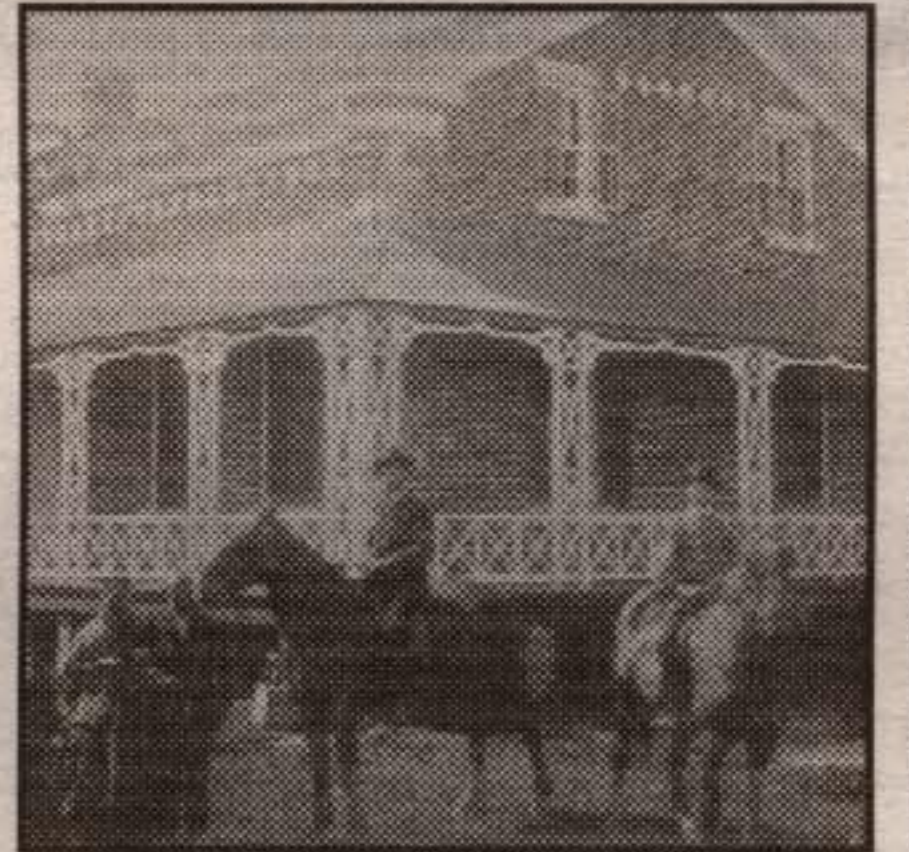
see page 3



#### Shoobox Memories

Abraham Neilson and Mary Fish immigrated to New York about 1815. Several years later, the Neilsons applied for a land grant and received Lot 5, Conc. 6 in Esquesing Township.

see page 10



#### Good food on the go

Four talented ladies have collaborated on their first cookbook, packed with delicious, portable meals to prepare at home and take on the trail or in the canoe.

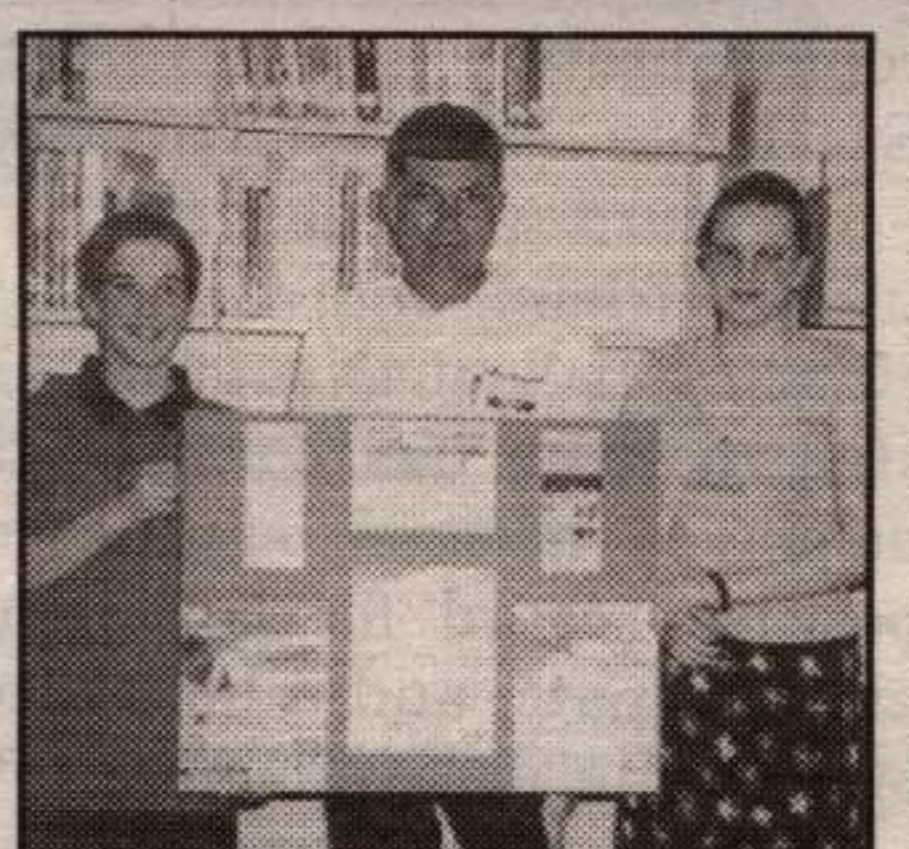
see page 12



#### Achievement Day

The Halton 4-H Marketing Club held its Achievement Day at Stewarttown School with each of the ten members taking part in presenting the activities in which they were involved.

see page 19



## HALTON REGION FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE REPORT

Water shortages at the forefront of HRFA's concerns this season.

The forecasted dry summer combined with low water levels suggest that water shortages will only get worse.

The current water shortages in parts of rural Halton are putting our agricultural industry at risk. It's difficult to prioritize water use; water consumption is necessary for survival, and many industries as well as food production require water. This is an issue which concerns everyone. Water taken from our creeks and aquifers must be balanced with the availability and sustainability of water resources. The Ministry of the Environment which is responsible for issuing water taking permits is curtailing the issuance of new or expanded water taking permits in all areas of the province experiencing problems due to water shortages, based on the cumulative effects to the environment and ecosystem. Water conservation should be practiced not just by those experiencing problems now, but by everyone.

John Hall of Conservation Halton (formerly Halton Region Conservation Authority) spoke at the April HRFA meeting regarding the Bronte Creek Watershed Study and Stewardship Project. The Bronte Creek is the second largest watershed within the Halton jurisdiction and drains an area which

continued on page 19



**WETHERBY'S**  
In the British manner

**OPEN DAILY**  
Monday-Saturday 10 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 12 to 5 pm

- Wheelchair Access •
- Call for our free mail order brochure •

**149 Church Street East,**  
**Acton, ON**  
**(519) 853-1633**

**Summer Sale!**  
June 25 to July 25  
Genuine reductions on gifts, books, toys & foods

Saturday, July 24  
**Coronation Street 'Get Together'**  
1-4 p.m. in the Garden

Shop in Person or Order Direct for your  
**British Gifts, Books, Foods, Toys, Specialty Gifts**  
& Coronation Street Collectibles

*A shop in a charming old house with beautiful  
woodwork, shiny hardwood floors and French  
doors. The shelves are full of delicious foods  
and delightful gifts, and all*  
**'In the British Manner'**

