

**NATURE'S FIRE**  
Quality Educational  
Toys, Games  
& Activities

**LEGO Writing System**

223 Main Street  
Downtown Milton  
(905) 878-0084  
www.NaturesFire.com

~ SURVEYING THE REGION ~

**Bergsma's Home Decor**

Spring Decorating Sale  
Great prices on paint, lights,  
wallpaper. See ad Page 13.  
905-876-4922

**MAIN STREET LIGHTING**

# The North Halton Compass

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

MAY 2003

## Contaminated sites worth saving

BY NANCY TILT

Acton's Beardmore Tannery, Barber Mill in Georgetown, and Milton's Pigment and Chemical Company are all examples of "brownfields". What exactly are they? They are lands that are currently unused, with a history of industrial or commercial activity. Often the soil and water associated with these sites are contaminated as a result of previous use during a time when environmental risks were unknown.

Redeveloping brownfields offers many benefits. Property values next to reclaimed sites rise. Municipalities gain financially through development charges and increased property taxes. Clean up of the site, if contaminated, reduces risks to public health and the environment. And better integration of working and living locations reduces traffic volume and subsequent air pollution. Perhaps most important in the long term, keeping development in the urban core reduces sprawl and protects our neighbouring agricultural lands. And this fits very nicely into the

current planning thrust towards smart growth.

But there are challenges. First and foremost is the removal of any existing contamination from the site. Then, depending on its nature, the cost of cleanup can be prohibitively expensive: A developer may not see a return on his investment for several years. Finally, there's the question of liability.

New legislation attempts to deal with these issues. Ontario's Brownfields Statute Law Amendment Act clarifies environmental liability and provides municipalities with more flexibility in helping developers offset the costs of redevelopment. It limits liability by requiring site-cleanup professionals to meet established standards; as long as required standards are met, liability protection is provided for both the owners and those involved in the cleanup. The Act also allows municipalities greater flexibility in designating community improvement areas, providing grants or loans to help cover the costs of cleanup, giving

relief for property tax on contaminated sites and taking ownership of the site in a failed tax situation.

The most common types of contamination are organic, as in the case of petroleum products; or metal, such as those used in various manufacturing and industrial applications. There are several methods for dealing with contaminated soil. Most often, it is excavated and trucked to a landfill site. Sometimes, it can be contained on site with the use of plastic or concrete barriers. A third method, bioremediation, uses microbes to clean up petroleum products.

While cleaning up contamination is the driving force in the short term, making better use of our land is a greater incentive in the long term. However, "The impetus to fully use brownfields may not come until urban boundaries are frozen," says Gabe Charles, Senior Planner in the Town of Halton Hills. This effectively leaves developers with no alternatives.

continued on page 27



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARON GOSS

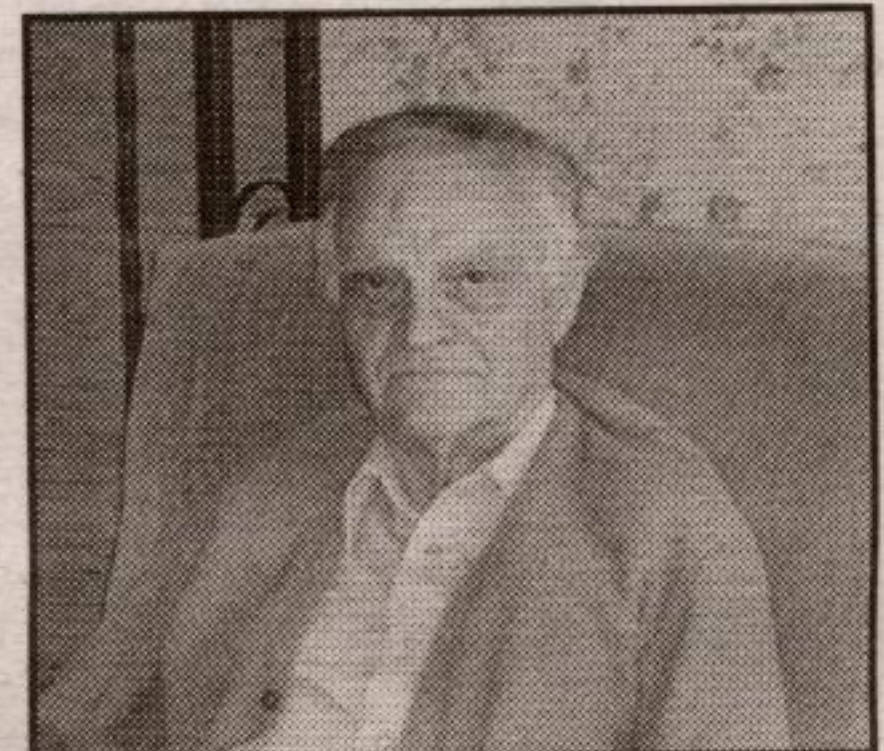
Joe Gomes and Debbie Tilson star in the Georgetown Globe Production of *The King and I*, which opened on May 1. Selected performances run until May 10 at the John Elliott Theatre, Georgetown.

### Inside this Month's Compass

#### COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE

Dr. George Elliott, the bandleader of the Acton Citizens Band, has lived in Acton since the age of three. When asked which instrument he plays, Dr. Elliott calmly states that he plays most of them.

page 8



#### SHOEBOX MEMORIES

Was William Trudgen the first settler in Nassagaweya? The keeping of local land records was still in its infancy when William Trudgen Sr., his wife and six children arrived from Cornwall, England in 1819 and filed for a grant of land.

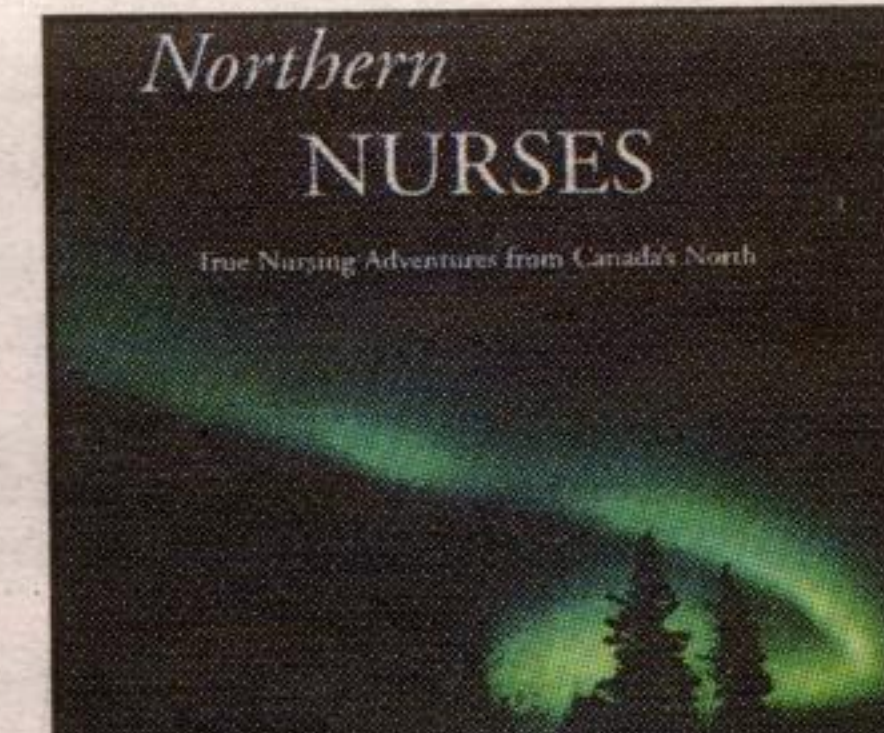
page 14



#### IDLE PURSUITS

There are a few men and women who aren't content with the everyday life in urban Canada, and who strike out for harsher territory. *Northern Nurses* offers readers a liberal dose of the high country presented in the writers' voices.

page 19



**MILTOWNE COLLISION INC.**

"We meet by accident"

~Free Estimates~  
We specialize in IMPORTS

751 Main Street East,  
Milton  
905-878-6919

**LIFETIME WARRANTY**

**Brancier**  
JEWELLER - GEMOLOGIST

For The Moments you Cherish....

Mothers Day  
Milton Mall  
905 876-4367

**Classic Coolers**

Spring & Distilled Water Cooler  
Rental Sales & Service

We are proud to bottle natural spring water from one of Ontario's remaining untouched resources. Our water is not chemically treated, it's just good, clean-tasting natural water. Enjoy!

We deliver throughout Halton  
\$7.50/bottle (\$10 deposit) or pick up  
at one of our many outlets at \$4.99.

723 Main St. E., Milton 905-876-1991  
email classic.coolers@stn.net

Mon-Fri 8-5,  
Sat 8-12

**Crystal Mountain**  
Water Cooler Corporation

**storage solutions**

9144 Twiss Road, Campbellville, Ontario. L0P 1B0  
Phone 905-854-1008 Fax 905-854-2707

Rates as low as \$75/month, video surveillance, fully fenced facility, electronic card access, 24 hour access, only you have the key, computerized gate system, security lighting, and ground level units!