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**THE NEW Tanner**

Your Hometown Newspaper

Volume 1 No. 10

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**What's Inside**



A canine census, support for micro-chip implantation and proof of vaccination will give the Town's dog control laws more bite. See High Tech Hounds on page 2.

Rotarians wined and dined at their 50th anniversary bash at Acton Arena and Community centre on Saturday. Check out the guests on page 4 and 5.

An Acton man remains behind bars charged with robbery, forcible confinement, threatening and assault. For details see page 8.



Acton's Kylie Kruk heads to the national bowling championships next month in B.C. after a spectacular win to take the provincial 5-pin girl's title. See page 12.

Acton's House hockey league wrapped up its season with the Day of Champions on Saturday. Game reports and stories are on pages 12 and 13.

**Daylight saving starts Sunday:**

Don't forget to turn your clock ahead by one hour before going to bed Saturday night. It's daylight saving time again. "Spring forward, fall back!" That's the old motto.

**Historic hall destroyed by flames**

*Home of Georgetown Little Theatre*

The show will go on. Officially, the cause is undetermined, but a pot left on a stove burner in the kitchen of the Georgetown Little Theatre (GLT) may have started a \$450,000 blaze that gutted the historic Stewarttown building early Monday morning.

Heart broken and shocked Georgetown Little Theatre members - troopers that they are - will continue with the scheduled April 17th opening of their production of *Dial M for Murder*, as scheduled at John Elliott Theatre.

Although GLT no longer performed at the almost 150-year-old building, all of the company's costume, props, sets and tools were destroyed in the blaze.

The fire call came in at 6:40 a.m. and Halton Hills firefighters were met with heavy smoke when they arrived at the scene. The stage area was on fire and the flames had spread to the attic, used to store props and costumes. There had been a rehearsal on Sunday afternoon and the building had been locked up at 5 p.m.

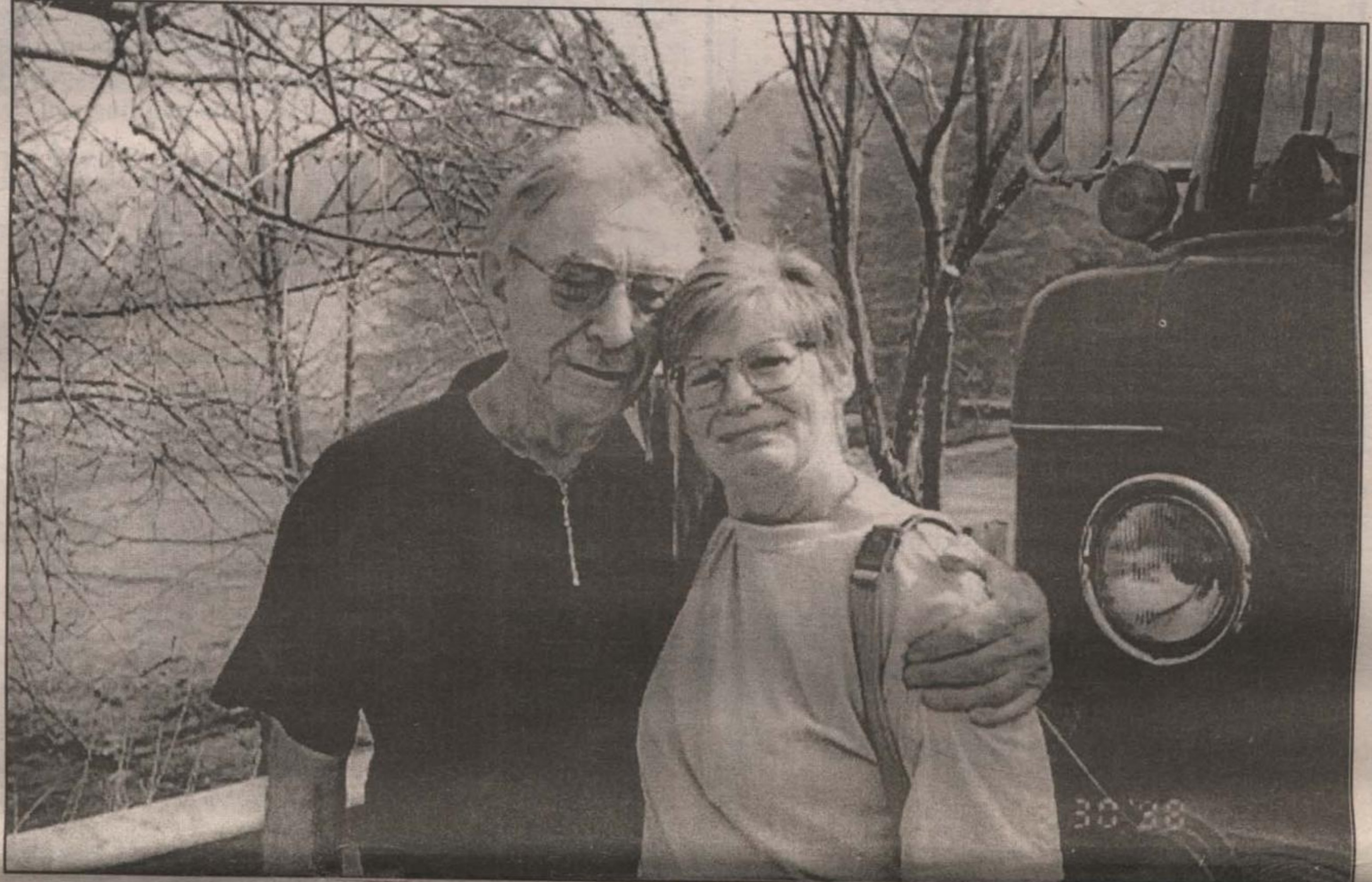
Firefighters had to use a bulldozer to move debris when part of the roof caved in and an aerial truck was called in from Acton. And crews were on the scene for approximately eight hours.

It was not the first time the GLT has been burned out. In 1968 it lost its props and sets when fire swept through the old Georgetown Town Hall.

The history of this historic hall goes as far back as the beginnings of Stewarttown which started with a gristmill, followed by a saw mill and then a flour mill, first owned by a James Young and then by Walter Lawson.

Richard Tracy, the first township clerk is recorded as having a poster in his office dated February 24, 1848, calling a meeting of ratepayers to discuss building a

See FIRE, Page 3



**DEVASTATED BY FIRE:** Georgetown Little Theatre President Vesta Jorgensen (right) is consoled by Ron Hill (left) after fire completely demolished the theatre on Monday. Twenty-five firemen from Acton and Georgetown were called to duty just after 6:45 a.m. Although the fire was first noticed near 6 a.m., it was first thought it was fog, which is a common occurrence near the theatre. The theatre lost 40 years of photographs and artifacts. The fire savagely destroyed the sets for their upcoming production of *Dial M for Murder*. The group is currently looking for a location to create new sets and a new location for the play. See story inside. - Ted Tyler photo

**Stay of execution for old arena**

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

If a structural report says the old Prospect Park arena is safe for public use then its demolition will be delayed until after September's fall fair. That will give the Acton Agricultural Society executive time to devise a business plan for new uses for the Town-owned facility.

The Town's budget committee - all councillors and the mayor - agreed to the delay last week following a two-hour meeting with Society spokesman and fair board treasurer Daniel Varanelli. He asked councillors to re-allocate \$110,000 in last year's budget earmarked for demolition and use it for re-

pairs, estimated by the Town's structural engineer at \$275,000.

The Society thinks that the building could be repaired and then rented by groups like a Guelph roller

blade hockey league that's looking for space.

Ward 2 Councillor Kathy Gastle asked Varanelli why he thought the building was sound when the Town's consultant said, "it wasn't worth

saving." Varanelli explained that informal reports suggest some of the building's problems will disappear when there's no ice surface, and the demolition delay will provide time for updated structural reports and repair estimates.

"We won't get ourselves into a money pit situation," Varanelli assured councillors, adding that if the structural report turns up any problems then they may have to walk away from the proposal.

"As much as the building might have got a lot of bad publicity in terms of its ending its useful life, one has to recognize the cost of building something like that to-

See STAY, Page 3

**Housing market hot**

The housing market at the West Meadow Village development in Acton is heating up with over half of the 60 lots in the first phase sold. On Monday Town council approved Phase 2 of the development, another 31 lots.

Pat Stuart Developments, in partnership with Peter Zions Construction, bought the Phase one land from local businessmen Fred Dawkins and Ron Heller, and have an option to purchase the Phase 2 lands, located east of Danville Avenue, south of Wallace Street.

"We're building houses that look like Gramma's house," explained Peter Zions in an interview on Friday, adding that

See HOUSING, Page 3

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