

**20 lb. Propane
Cylinder Refill**

\$10 incl. GST

Tyler Transport Ltd.
379 Queen St. E. Acton
853-1550

Newstand price: 40¢ + GST

THE



Tanner

Your Hometown Newspaper

Volume 1 No. 14

Thursday, April 30, 1998



ACHILLES

mazda

in Acton

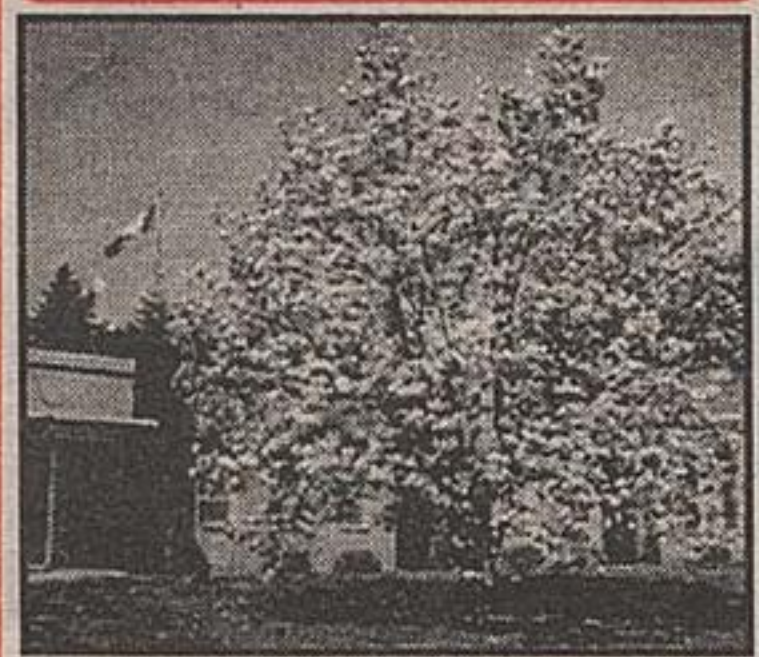
PAUL SIMMONS,
PARTS MANAGER

10% OFF TUNE UP PARTS

357 Queen Street (519) 853-0200
Halton Hills (Acton) (905) 453-8965

It's worth the drive to Achilles!

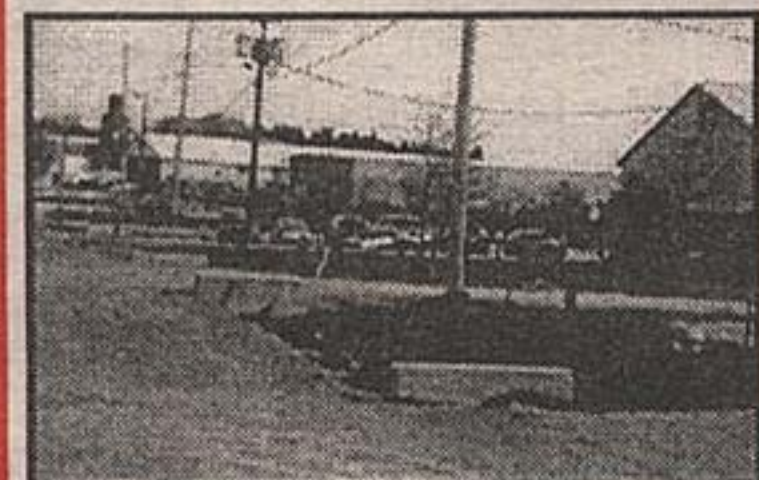
What's Inside



Magnolia trees are blooming everywhere. Blossoms are appearing in white, pinks and other variations, all proof Spring has arrived a couple of weeks earlier than usual. See photo on Page 4.



Members of the Acton Horticultural society renovate Laura Dietrich Memorial Garden at the corner of Main St. N. and River St. See photo Page 2.



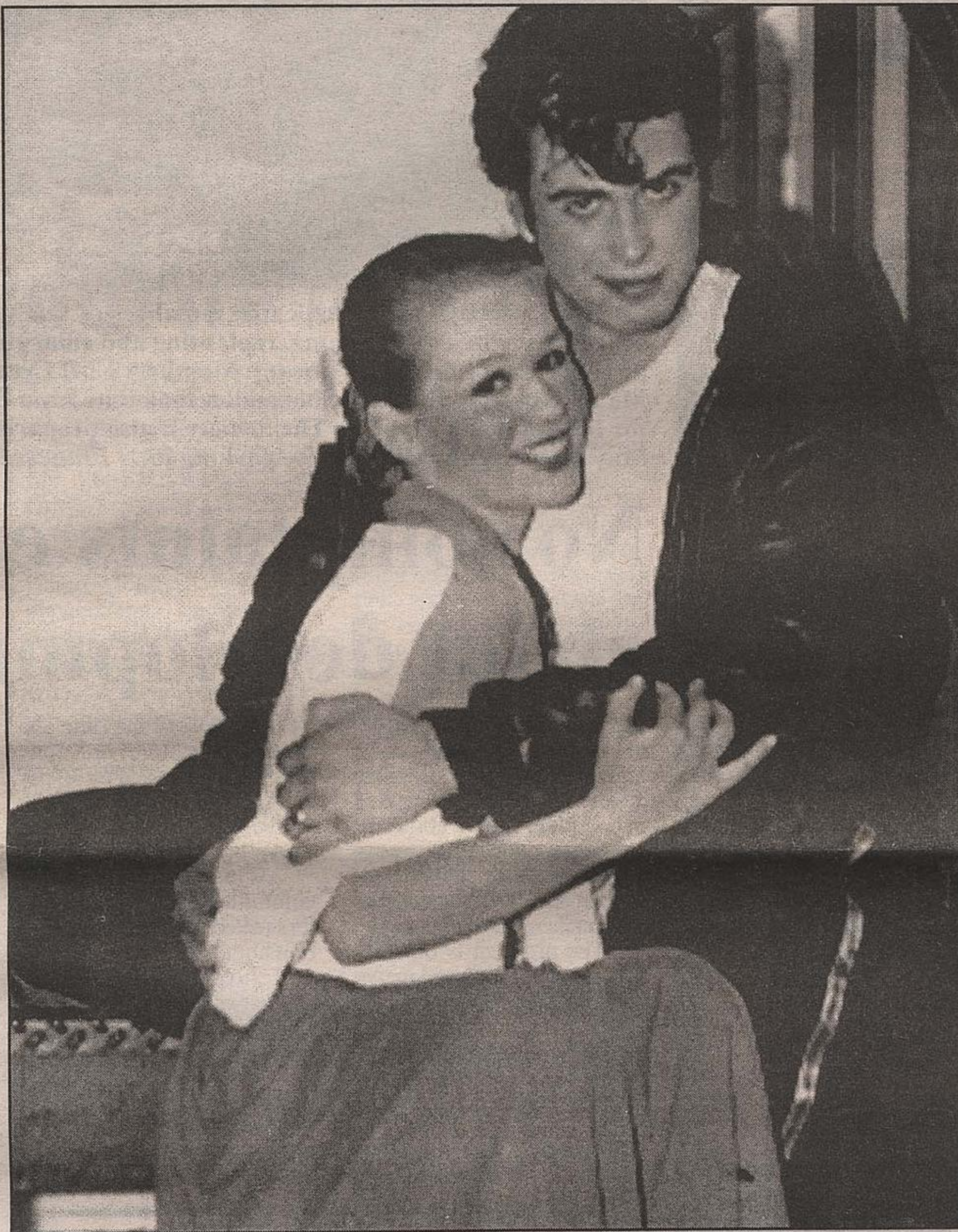
The conditions at Acton's industrial park need renovation to attract new business. See story on Page 7.



Kylie Kruk will be bowling for the Canadian championship in Winnipeg. See story and photo on Page 10.

Massive layoffs in Halton schools

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner



HOPELESSLY DEVOTED: Jenn Johnson (Sandy) and Aaron Scarlett (Danny) get into their parts as they prepare for the sold-out performance of *Grease* on Friday night. - Frances Niblock photo

Massive layoffs and school closings are very real possibilities as the Halton District School Board grapples with the implications of the Provincial education funding formula.

Layoff notices will be issued tomorrow (Friday) to 273 instructional assistants (IAs) employed by the Halton District School Board. The notices cover 134 - almost half - of the Board's permanent IAs, and 134 term-specific IAs who provide support for students with special needs from Kindergarten to OAC. It's unclear what the layoffs will mean to the Acton students who now receive special education.

Both Robert Little Public School and Acton High have 2.5 IA positions. Officials at McKenzie-Smith Bennett declined to comment on either the staffing or layoffs. Last year the Board spent \$8 million providing special education programming to 5,260 students in Halton.

"The layoffs are a direct result of implications of the province's funding model," explained Board chair Ethel Gardiner Wednesday.

"We are in difficulty. We cannot spend dollars that we're not sure we're going to get. That's the bottom line for me," Gardiner said, adding she's "very concerned" with the province's extremely short June 15 deadline to apply for special education funding for September.

"When I look at the children we are servicing in our system, I don't know how we are going to offer the level of service that we have provided," Gardiner said, adding children will suffer because of the funding formula.

School closures

The province's funding formula suggests that Halton has 600,000 square feet - equal to 10 public schools - too much space and it will not pay to heat, light, keep clean and repair that excess space. Gardiner said that parents shouldn't panic about school closures until all of the details are known.

Schools celebrate learning

The achievements of Acton students, who continue to be "happy, engaged learners" despite uncertainty and low morale outside the classroom over the future of education, will be celebrated next week during the provincial Education and Training Week.

Halton District School Board chair Ethel Gardiner said that now, more than ever, it's important to celebrate the students' and

teachers' success.

"Outside the classroom this has been an unsettled year for education," Gardiner said in an interview on Sunday.

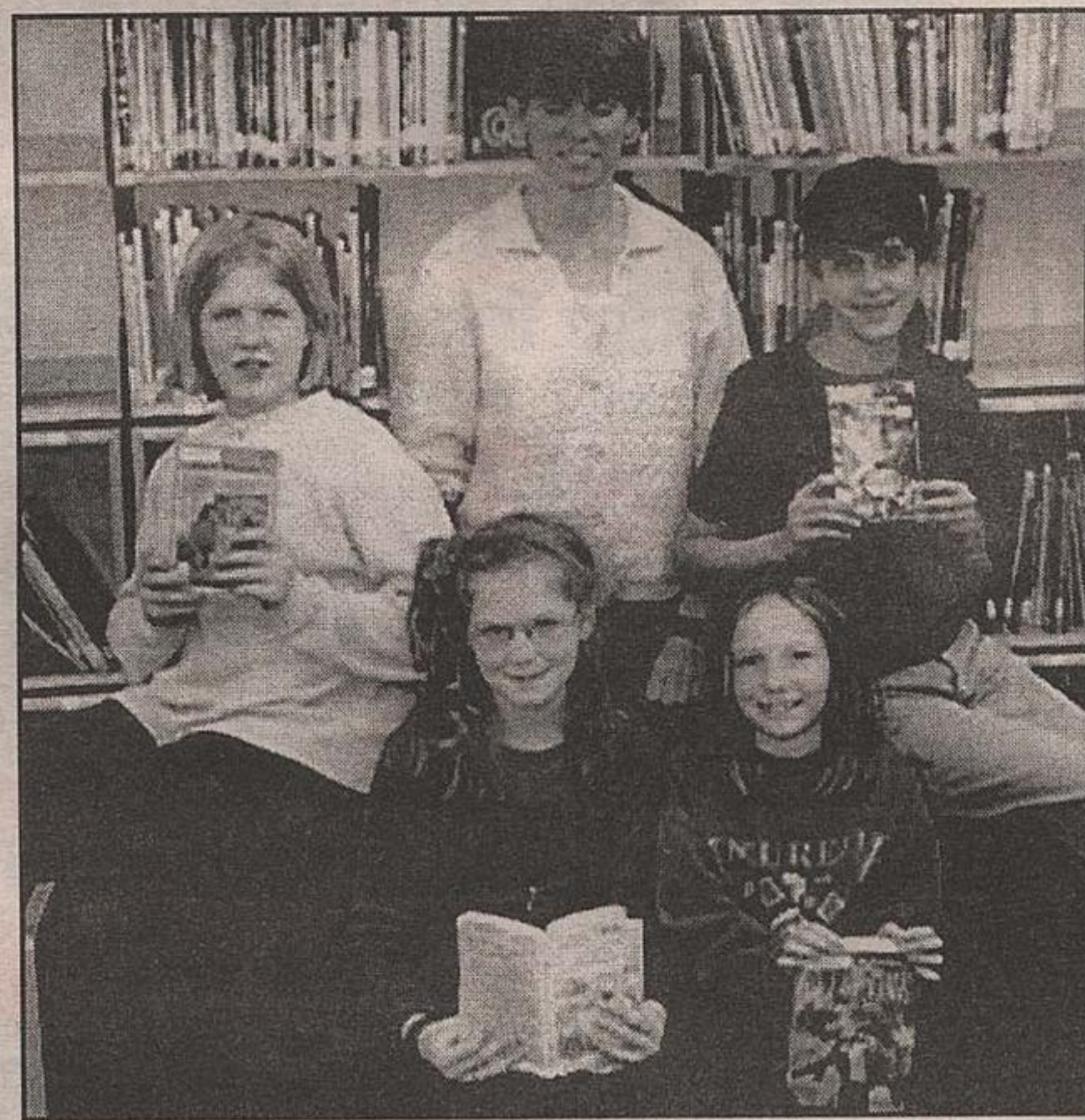
"We've had Bill 160, the teacher's protest and now we're dealing with the funding model and it's implications, but when I walk into Halton's schools, nothing has changed."

While admitting that staff morale is low in the schools

because of the fundamental changes coming from Queen's Park, Gardiner stressed that staff are committed to doing the very best they can in light of everything that's going on around them as evidenced by the long list of extra-curricular activities at local schools.

Parents and the public will be able to see education at work as Acton's schools

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 8



LITERATURE LOVERS: McKenzie-Smith Bennett's senior team won two of three trivia rounds at the annual library-sponsored Battle of the Books in Georgetown recently. Front, left: Sarah Lewis and Synnoeve Stockinger. Back, left to right: Cassie Hunter, Holly Colquhoun (teacher) and Hayley Green.

Fresh
**STRIPLOIN
STEAKS**
\$7.59/lb

Frozen Lean
GROUND BEEF
\$1.69/lb
while quantities last

Fresh
BACON
\$2.19/lb

LASAGNA
\$9.50 or
2 for \$16.00

**COD
FILLETS**
\$4.59/lb

Chopped
SPINACH
\$1.59/lb

Banana
CREAM PIES
8" Thaw 'n Serve
\$1.99 each

**SUPER
DEAL!**

Mini
**BLACK FOREST
HAM**
\$2.99/lb

5 MILL STREET
ACTON
853-0101

