



PETER LEHMAN



ADRIANN COE

Acton students are honoured by Catholic School board

Two Acton students have been honoured by the Halton Catholic District School Board with "Sharing the Spirit" Student Awards of Excellence for their outstanding qualities, including Catholic leadership, family commitment and involvement in school and community projects.

Staff at St. Joseph's school had no trouble in choosing

Peter Lehman to receive the award. The Grade 8 student is involved with school sports, he organized the school's food drive and is an exceptional student, recently being on a team that won first place in an engineering competition.

The award winner at Milton's Bishop Reding High School is OAC student Adriann Coe, who is de-

scribed by Board officials as a "real asset to Reding."

Coe is a member of the environment club, she organized a student fast at Reding and tutor's other students as well as maintaining high marks herself.

Both Lehman and Coe were honoured recently at the Board's awards ceremony where each received a certificate and a medallion.



CHEQUE DONATED: Cathy Gerrow, left, president of the Acton branch of the Halton Hills Cancer Society, received a cheque from organizers of a fundraising dance in memory of Kelly Jupp. Presenting the cheque were Kim Porty, centre, and her son Jonathan, Jamie Davies, and Ian Munday, right. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Fire chief says: Arson unlikely in fire

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

Although arson has not been totally eliminated as the cause of last week's spectacular fire at the former Beardmore tannery, fire officials are "less focused" on that angle and Halton police speculate that kids playing with firecrackers may have caused the blaze.

Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham said they were able to rule out suspicious origins.

"At first impression it looked like there were four points of origin, but once we were able to get in and look at the burn pattern in more detail we determined that those fires were caused by drippings from the initial fire," Cunningham explained in an interview on Friday.

The fire apparently began an original stone building and burned through approximately 35,000 square feet of abandoned offices and leather processing areas before being brought under control.

Property owner Maple Leaf Foods has agreed to pay a "substantial bill" for the heavy equipment that was brought onto the site to level the ruins after the blaze. Cunningham said Maple Leaf may be asked to pay the costs for both the Halton

Hills and Halton Region spills response teams that worked to keep the runoff from the millions of gallons of water that was poured onto the blaze from getting into Black Creek which winds through the 23-acre tannery property.

Cunningham said he'd feel better once the site is demolished because they have been on going problems with youths and vandals on the property.

Maple Leaf Foods spokesperson Cynthia Zamaria said they intend to "decommission and deconstruct" the site, but there's no firm timeline.

"Maple Leaf is in the process of finalizing the decommissioning and closure plans to decide how and when all the buildings will be taken down and what will happen to them," Zamaria explained in an interview on Friday.

"It's premature to say how long the demolition will take or when it will begin because they (Maple Leaf Foods) don't have any firm plans at this point.

Two major buildings, both larger than 10,000 square feet, and half of the building that burned are still standing, along with eight smaller ancillary buildings.



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