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What's Inside



Jean Jefferies waits for the program to begin at Knox Ladies' Aid 110th anniversary tea. See Page 6 for story and photos.



The Beardmore water tower may fall to the wrecker's hammer unless funds are found to rehabilitate it. See story on Page 3.



Helen Dubeau was among the seniors who did a traffic survey at the corner of Mill and Willow Streets, beside the pedestrian walk. See Page 8 for story.



The Town's Recreation and Parks Department supervisors are planning summer camps for Acton this year, some at the high school and others at Prospect Park. See Page 7 for details.

Flyers inside this issue include Home Hardware and Godfather's Pizza.

Storm downs trees, hydro wires



FIVE-YEAR-OLD Emily Schlieper, her bicycle destroyed by the huge maple tree which blew down in Sunday's storm, surveys the damage. Her father's motorcycle was also smashed by the blow.

Maple tree destroys vehicles
By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The New Tanner

It's all Debbie Schlieper can do not to cry as she stands at her back door and surveys the damage done by Sunday morning's storm when it blew down part of a huge maple tree in her yard. The tree smashed her husband's uninsured motorcycle and her 5-year-old daughter Emily's bicycle and landed on top of two cars parked in the compound of neighbour-Acton Motors.

"We were sleeping early, Sunday morning when I heard a loud crack and then a crash as it crushed one of the cars next door," Schlieper said on Monday, in between calls to contractors and her insurance company.

"It was a beautiful tree. My kids' swing hangs in that tree. There was never any indication that anything would ever happen to this tree. I'm sickened by it," Schlieper said, adding they are unsure if the remainder of the tree will have to come down.

All over Halton Hills homeowners are cleaning up after the freak storm blew through town just after 9 a.m. On Willow Street South a limb of a huge maple tree came down bringing with it the top half of a hydro pole and lines to three other houses in the area. In the backyard at 48 Willow Street an uprooted tree lifted part of a garage-shed.

"It was the worst storm so far this year as far as downed lines and service interruptions," said Halton Hills Hydro operations manager Kurt Durski in an interview on Monday.

Hydro crews worked from 9 a.m. Sunday to 3 a.m. on Monday, clearing away downed trees and restring lines. Hydro expected to have all power restored by Tuesday.

The massive influx of calls for service swamped Hydro's phone system and Durski said he wanted to apologize for the problem.

Widow invites drinking drivers to visit her husband's grave

Acton's Julie Wilson, widowed two years ago by a drunk driver, hopes that tomorrow's (Friday) anti drinking and driving assembly at Acton High will encourage teens to act responsibly - but she can't help feeling that it's a different group that needs to be educated.

"Drinking and driving is still more socially acceptable with older people. Teens and young adults seem to have got the message, but I know that a lot of older people still think that it's okay to drink and drive and I want to tell them that it's not," Wilson said in an interview on Sunday.

The Acton High assembly, featuring the sister of girl killed by a drunk driver, is part of this week's Halton Hills Road Safety Challenge, aimed at making the roads less dangerous and deadly.

Wilson, reluctant to talk at first because she didn't want people to "feel sorry for Julie Wilson," overcame her uncertainty because she's sure that the heart-wrenching

details of her husband's death after being hit by not one, but two drunk drivers, is a powerful message.

"If there is anyone out there who drinks and drives, or anyone who wants to help someone who drinks and gets behind the wheel, take a drive to the Eden Mills cem-

etry and visit John's grave. That's makes it a little clearer," Wilson said.

On October 19, 1996 John Wilson, 25, left his pregnant wife and his happy home to go to work. In the Highway 7 - Lakeview Avenue area John was hit head-on by an impaired driver from

Brampton who was later sentenced to 22 days for impaired driving and 22 days for dangerous driving. John phoned Julie who gathered her parents and in-laws and went to the scene to find John shaken, but not hurt.

As the tow truck driver and John swept the broken glass off the road a second drunk driver, John Ogden of Georgetown, drove through the scene, hitting John and sending him flying through the air. He died while being transferred by ambulance to Toronto.

Julie said she and her family speak out about their tragedy so that John didn't die in vain.

"We beat ourselves up every day that we couldn't do more for John when he was alive, so now we are doing what we can for him. If just one person is touched by his horrible story then it will have been worth it for me to tell it, even though I know that some people roll their

See WIDOW, Page 2

Major expansion at North Halton Tool & Die

All of the Town paperwork for the final approval of a site plan for a major expansion at North Halton Tool and Die is almost complete. The applicant has fulfilled all of the Town requirements and is waiting for a building permit to add an additional 6,300 square feet to its existing industrial building at 36 Commerce Crescent.

Company owner John Papp said that they are expanding their building by 150 per cent and hope to hire additional staff to the 11 full-time employees they now have.

The automotive industry, including Magna International and Standard Products in Georgetown, are major customers of North Halton Tool and which has been in Acton for almost ten years.

Pap said that he didn't want to talk about his expansion plans until he actually had his building permit in hand.

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