

Wards 1 and 2 losing out

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in 1963. Built by citizens of Ward 2, which then had 12 employees for Esquesing, it met the same fate as the Acton arena although it was only 32 years old. I just don't understand why council would take these buildings down when they could still be used. Today Halton Hills has 148 full time employees, 10 on council and a mayor.

I have a real concern with hiring so many expensive consultants, staff preparing their reports and council passing the recommendations. I am deeply concerned the present council is not ex-

amining in depth some of the matters which come before them.

I am saddened to see the old arena demolished. People have come forward to thank the committee which attempted to save it, even if of no avail. History will probably show it is the worst mistake in 50 years aside from the fact Wards 1 and 2 are not receiving their fair share from two large departments.

What advantages are there to being in regional government then? Up to now it looks like there are not very many.

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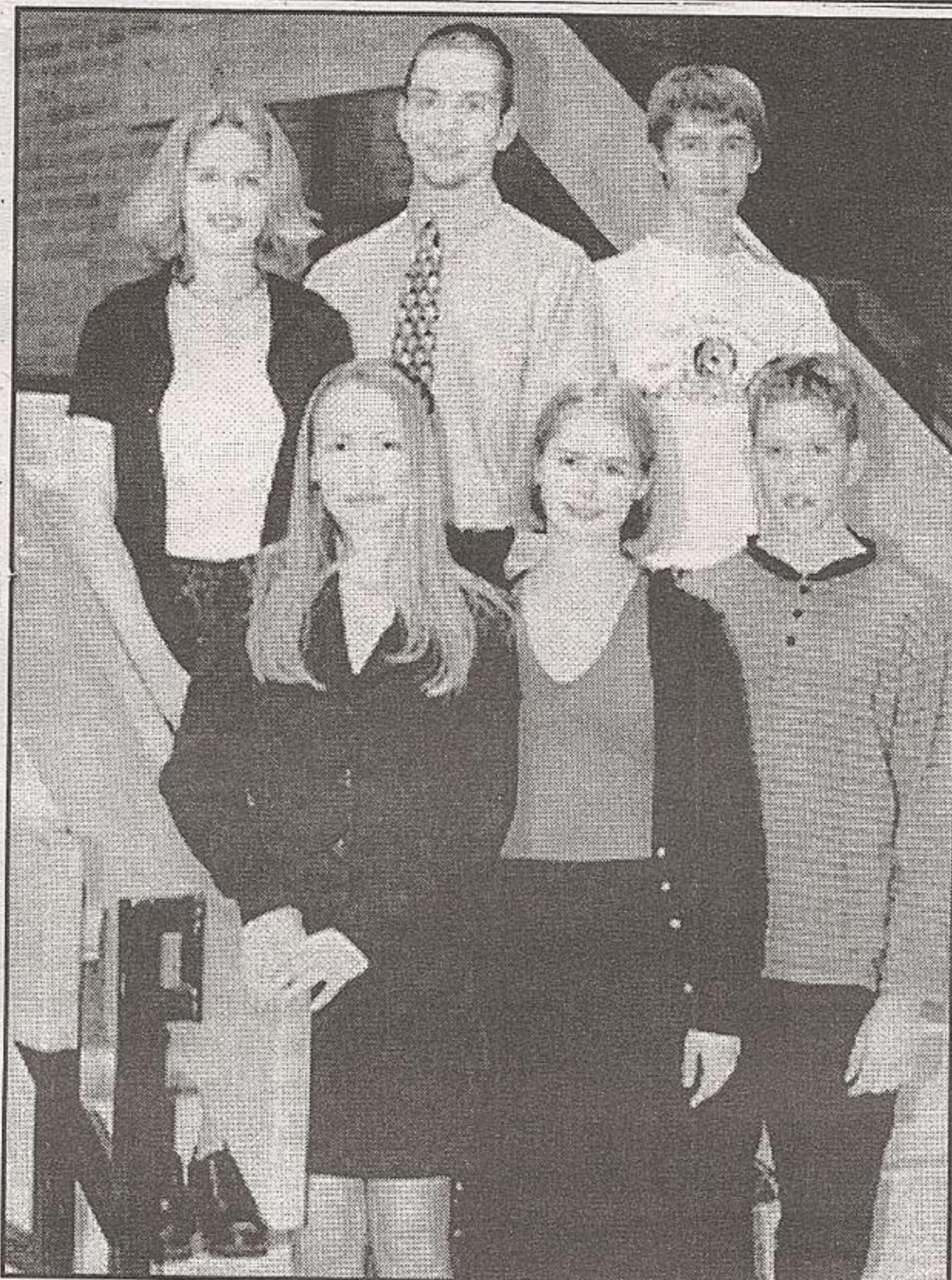
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AWARD WINNERS: One hundred and six Acton High School students received special academic and honours awards at a ceremony last week. Among the winners were, front, left to right: Bailey Galimanas, Thomas Mahon and Meredith Kenzie. Middle: Jenn Norman, Andre Savard and Robbie Vorne. - Frances Niblock photo

Clergy Comment

At the end of 'The Decade'

Rev. Bob Matton
Trinity United Church

It is with little surprise but some disappointment that few will know what the title of this column is all about, wondering aloud as to what I am referring. For the information of the uninitiated majority, my reference is to the "Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women".

That, having been so proclaimed by the World Council of Churches in 1988 in anticipation of addressing women's issues and concerns, comes to a less than successful conclusion at the end of this month. Even within my own denomination which has officially been sympathetic and has served at the forefront of Canadian churches in support of initiatives seeking redress of historic inequality and injustice towards women, I must admit that there has been a lukewarm response of most people in the pews who are skeptical towards what they regard as the 'special interests' of a small group of feminists.

Worst yet in my opinion has been the neo-patriarchal backlash of many others in the Christian community who, not being satisfied to drag their feet in regard to acknowledging these issues and concerns, would self-righteously attack the so-called 'feminist agenda' of

anyone who either implicitly or explicitly might dare to challenge the subjugation of women in the Bible and in the churches. In such circles, as we in Acton shamefully witnessed to in the unprecedented boycott of the Community Unity Service, the surest way to denigrate even such a distinguished speaker as Lois Wilson is to call her a feminist - who, heaven forbid, might by her very presence upset the status quo. Such a travesty, in my mind and others, served as a dubious 'exclamation point' on the failure of the Ecumenical Decade to make a positive impact on those whose selective reading of the Bible enables them to deny the full humanity of women.

However much I am disappointed in this failure to encourage the wider Christian community to meaningfully acknowledge that, whether male or female, we are all created in the image of God, my greater concern is focused on how these inherently negative attitudes and practices towards women in our churches are reflected in our lacklustre response to questions of violence against women such as are particularly highlighted by events of this upcoming week. It is unforgivable that as Christ's followers we should fail to address this subject with the same degree of vigor and ur-

Handel's Messiah Yule offering of Choral Society

The Georgetown Choral Society, under the direction of Dale Wood, will perform Handel's Messiah at Holy Cross Church, Georgetown on Dec. 11 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. Due to the overwhelming demand for tickets the last time the Society performed this work, in 1993, two performances will be conducted this year.

For the first time, two local residents who are professional singers, will be among the four featured soloists. Lisa Timney, soprano, and her husband Patrick Timney, baritone, of Georgetown, join Carolynne Godin, alto and Lenard Whiting, tenor. Several Acton singers are in the choir. Performing on period instruments will be the Aradia Baroque Ensemble, whose most recent compact disc release is entitled Ballet Music of the Sun King.

"Messiah is one of the greatest masterpieces ever

written," says Wood. "The balance of orchestra, solos and choruses makes it very exciting to listen to. This choir has been very adventuresome. They can handle the big stuff.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students, and are available at the Freckled Lion on Main Street and Bergsma's Paint and Wallpaper in the Georgetown Marketplace.

HOW THEY SAY IT IN...

ENGLISH: DEER

SPANISH: CIERVO

ITALIAN: CÈRVO

FRENCH: DAIM

GERMAN: HIRSCH

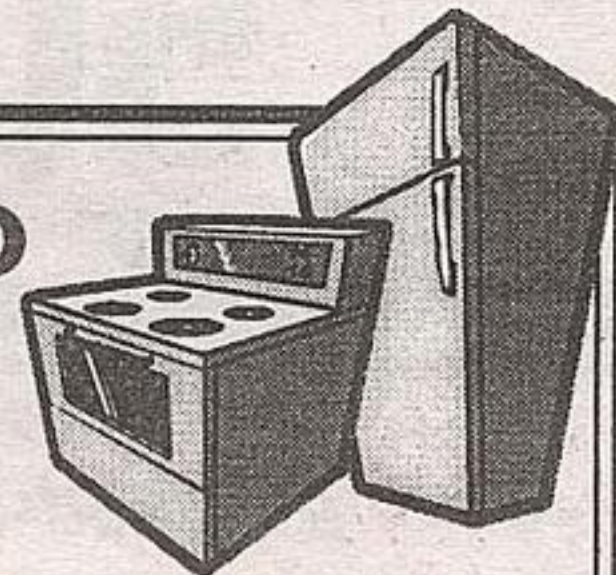
LATIN: CERVUS



POWER AND GRACE: McKenzie-Smith Bennett Mustang senior player Kylie Kruk prepares to hammer the ball over the net in a semi-final volleyball game against Centennial on Saturday. MSB hosted the 20-team Mustang Main Event tournament. The Pool A team finished second over all. -Frances Niblock photo

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