

Two rural subdivisions in progress west of Acton

The mild weather is allowing crews with heavy equipment to continue carving two rural estate subdivisions from vacant fields just east and south of Acton.

All that's holding up the final paperwork for a 14-lot subdivision in the Crewson's Corners rural cluster, now known as the Jarvis, formerly Mesich, de-

velopment, is the completion of engineering drawings and calculation of a parkland contribution by the land owner, a numbered Ontario company.

The triangular property just west of Dublin Line is bounded by Highway 7 on one side and 32 Side Road on the other. Graders and dump trucks are building an

internal street with access from 32 Side Road.

Work is also underway on the road in a 20-lot estate subdivision on the east side of the Halton Hills-Milton Town Line, between 17 and 22 Side Roads.

Willowridge Construction Group purchased the former farm from the Williams family and will

build 20 estate lots on a loop road with two accesses from Town Line.

A portion of the Town Line has been reconstructed and a knoll removed in the area in response to road and traffic safety issues raised by area residents at the Ontario Municipal Board hearing that led to the plan's approval.


These rural subdivisions are among some of the last that will be built in Halton as the Region prohibited new rural estate plans in 1995, except in designated hamlets and rural clusters.

Any rural subdivision with draft approval before 1995 is still active, although the developer must pay annual fees so the approval

doesn't lapse. There are 140 estate lots with draft approval in Halton Hills.

The prohibition of rural estate subdivisions is intended to maintain a permanently secure, economically viable agricultural industry and to preserve the open space character and landscape heritage of Halton's non-urbanized area.

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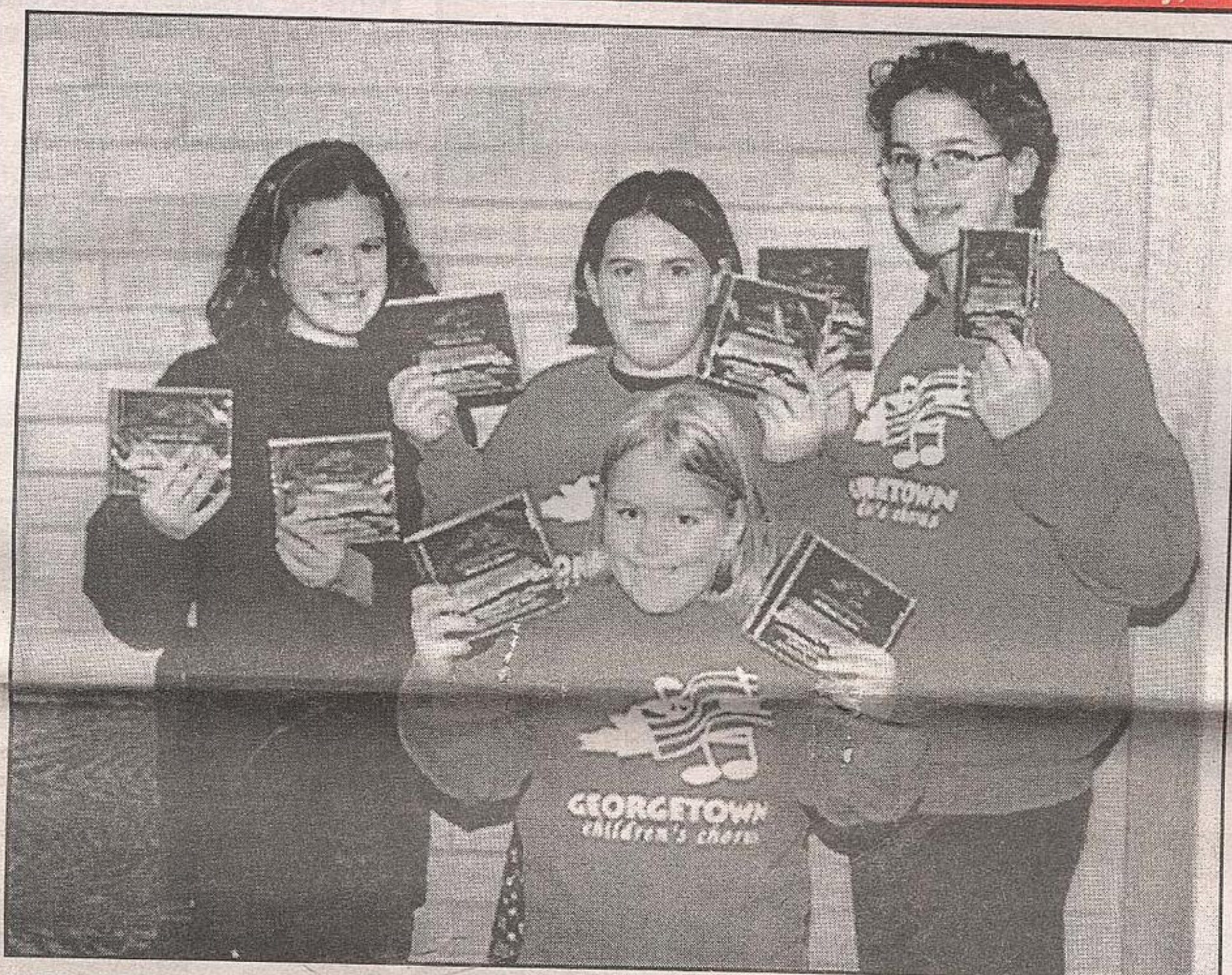
An unemployed mom won the BIA shopping spree contest. See Page 2



Officials opened Eden Mills' new bridge. See story on Page 8.



McKenzie-Smith Bennett school hosted Halton's flag football championship. See story Page 6.



STOCKING STUFFER? The CD of the Georgetown Children's Chorus Ambassadors of Peace Holland trip music is a hit. Acton chorus members include Sarah Becker (front), left to right, Lindsey Dunn, Jennifer Grierson and Kim Freeland.

Authorities support program

Both the principal and school council co-chair at Acton High School would welcome drug sniffing dogs to check student lockers, as was done earlier this month in high schools in Milton and Burlington.

No drugs were found during the recent Project Hallwalk searches. Last year, 11 high schools in Halton were searched and a small quantity of marijuana was found in a common hallway, but no charges were laid.

Acton High School principal Greg MacPherson supports the program and will raise the issue with the school council in the New Year.

"Last year when we sent

letters home to parents telling them about the program, I had several who said Project Hallwalk was one more way to get the message out that we want our schools to be safe," MacPherson said.

School council co-chair Debbie Lindsay doesn't believe there's a need for drug sniffing dogs in Acton but also supports the program.

"It lets the kids know that we are worried about the effects that drugs can have on kids and on the school program. It lets them know that the police are involved and in control," Lindsay said, adding that she's not naive enough to believe that there are no drugs at Acton High.

McKenzie-Smith Bennett Middle school principal Nancy Johnston said the program would be "sort of flamboyant" at the middle school level and that she hadn't considered asking police to visit because there isn't a need for it, right at the moment.

"A couple of years ago we had some instances in the school and the police were very supportive with us and I think that the message went out to the kids pretty strongly how we feel. We don't see the same sorts of things happening now," Johnston said.

Canada Customs provides the dog and handler free to the program which will visit any school on request.

Youth Centre still homeless

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

The Acton Youth Centre just needs one more thing to become a reality - a suitable, affordable location. But despite months of searching, staff with Halton Hills Community Support and Information (HHCSI) can't even find the centre a temporary home.

On Monday, HHCSI executive director Rosslyn Dowell accepted a \$15,000 cheque from the Healthy Community Funding Consortium of Halton for the Youth Centre, designed to offer one-stop youth services during the day and a drop-in at night.

Dowell, "discouraged" with the search, said some of the grant money would cover staff salaries to continue looking for a location.

"We need affordable rent because there is no on-going funding for youth programs," Dowell said in an interview on Monday, adding they are currently talking with two potential landlords.

"I'm confident we will find someplace because everyone agrees there is a need for a centre for youth in Acton," Dowell said, adding they could be open within weeks of signing a lease.

The remainder of this year's grant will be used for programming and the Healthy Community Funding Consortium has pre-approved \$10,000 for the Acton Youth Centre for next year.

The Acton Youth Centre grant was one of 13 awarded by the Consortium, which

has 10 partners including Halton Region, Halton's four municipalities, the Trillium Foundation and all of the United Ways in Halton, except the United Way of Halton Hills.

In a related issue, Dowell said they dropped plans to try to run a new pro shop at the Acton arena to pay for the Youth Centre because they didn't think they could meet the conditions of the town's tender.

"We will continue to explore the possibilities of some sort of business that would sustain the centre, but at this point we don't know what that would look like," Dowell said.



CHRISTMAS CONDUCTORS: Robert Little Grade 1 student Lauren Vermeulen, 6, helps Acton High school band leader Dave Sales conduct the concert and jazz bands during their annual Christmas concert. Frances Niblock photo

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