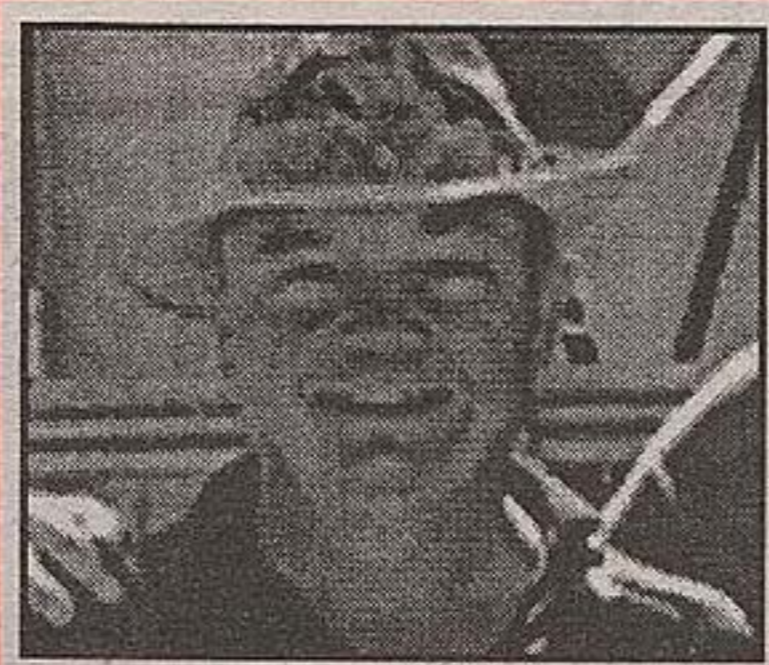
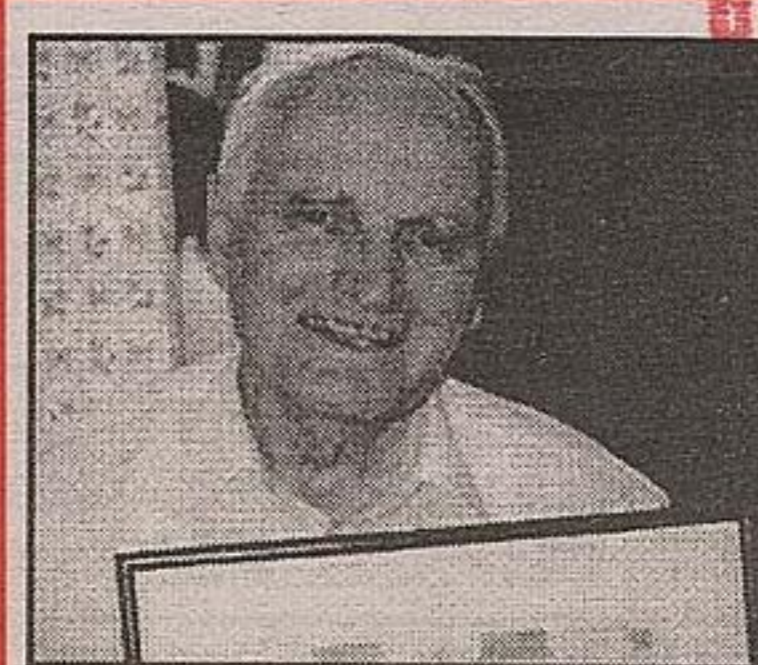




Susan Allen, Inez Brennan and Anne Moore serve up a spaghetti dinner at Knox Church last weekend. The dinner went over big, especially with the couple pictured on Page 2.



Yep, Mike's back after his sabbatical all summer. He wants to know whether you missed him, especially barber shop patrons. See Page 5.



What was it like to play hockey, pro and amateur, 50 years ago? Ilio Marzo reminisces on Page 9.

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# Town wants more information on restructuring

## Won't be 'spooked' into discussions

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner



GET THE MESSAGE: October is fire prevention month in Halton Hills. Seen with a department banner advertising their program are from left, Halton Hills fire fighter Doug Andrews, Sparky (a.k.a. Christopher Scully) and Halton Hills Fire Prevention officer Brian Ellesworth.- Maggie Petrushevsky photo

Town councillors want clarification from the Province about its intentions, if any, to restructure the four regional municipalities within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), but refused to be "spooked" into opening discussions about the future of Halton.

In a letter to the mayor, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Gilchrist, detailed how special advisors will recommend restructuring plans in the regional municipalities of Haldimand-Norfolk, Hamilton-Wentworth, Ottawa-Carleton and Sudbury after they failed to come up with plans on their own. The decision, Gilchrist said, is based on the Ontario government's commitment to easing the burden on local taxpayers by reducing the number, size and cost of municipal governments.

Ward 3 Councillor Jane Fogal called the letter a "wake-up call" and suggested the mayor and CEO open informal discussions with their Halton counterparts to decide how to deal with the restructuring issue.

"It's time for us to enter into some discussions with our municipal partners in the Region in order to protect our interests we need to be proactive... the Province is going to tell us to do it anyway," Fogal said, adding the issue isn't going to go away.

Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson agreed the issue must be "out on the table," noting it will be discussed at the Region's strategic plan committee. Town administrator Steve Andrews said he shared Fogal's concerns, adding there is "great urgency" for beginning discussions with regional partners because the new minister of municipal affairs is "very eager" to make

changes and the Town must have a strategy and position to respond to any proposed legislative changes in GTA governance.

Ward 2 Councillor Kathy Gastle argued the whole issue is "purely speculation" and urged Council to take a wait and see position and ask the Minister for more information.

Acton Councillor Norm Elliott agreed with Gastle, adding the public must have a say in how they will be governed. Elliott questioned what control Halton Hills would have on its destiny if the Ontario government is going to "orchestrate a government of city states" that would leave the Town the "callous on the hind end" of Burlington and Oakville. Elliott also asked the mayor what position she would take in the proposed informal talks since she doesn't know what's on her council's mind.

"There was sure no unanimity on the part of councillors before when we almost got spooked into cutting our own throats up here because someone at Queen's Park sneezed," Elliott said, referring to Council's narrow refusal in the spring to an overture from Burlington to look at restructuring.

Council directed the mayor to write a letter to the minister, with copies to Halton's MPP and mayors, asking for more information on potential restructuring plans and their impact on the GTA regional municipalities.

# Seniors part of living history book

The memories five Acton seniors will be included in a book to be published next month - a living history project to mark the International Year of the Older Person. While the book will be a tangible result of the intergenerational project, the process of getting the stories was more important according to Halton's Elderly Services Advisory Committee co-ordinator Maria Antonakos.

"They learned so much from each other. We wanted to get these generations together because there's always been this gap and it was a great opportunity for a bonding to take place," Antonakos, who is writing the forward to the book, said on

Friday. As part of the celebrations of the Year of the Older Person the province made approximately \$20,000 available to community groups in each riding to pay for international projects, like the book.

Grade 8 students from Halton schools interviewed seniors - many of them Citizens of the Year - to ask about their history, their youthful memories and opinions on life today.

"I've read some of the stories and they are just sensational. The students received an orientation to suggest some questions they could ask but they shaped the stories," Antonakos said, adding Sheridan College journal-

ism students are doing the editing and layout of text and photographs.

McKenzie-Smith Bennett teacher Mike Johnston offered the enrichment project to his Grade 8 English class as an interesting look at history.

"The students liked it because it was living history. They got to question people who were able to tell them what life was like when they were kids," Johnston said.

Grade 8 student Ryan Stroud, who interviewed long-time Acton resident George Elliott, said it was "pretty cool to learn how people lived back then, compared to us." Another interviewee, Joan Waldie Jenkins, was sur-

prised the students showed so much genuine interest and were so curious in the lives of local seniors.

"The students were very well prepared and had put a lot of time and careful thought into their questions so they'd get a real sense of what life in Acton many years ago," Waldie said.

The Halton Living History book launch is tentatively slated for Nov. 7 at Indigo Books in Burlington. Acton students and seniors are invited to the ceremony and each participant, and the local libraries, will receive a copy. The other Acton seniors interviewed for the book are Mac Sprowl, George Lee and Nan Hurst.

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