

Milton car and stereo thief captured here

GEORGETOWN

An 18-year-old Milton man, arrested in a stolen car early last Thursday morning in Acton, hoped to make bail when he appeared in Milton court yesterday (Wednesday) on four counts of possession of stolen property.

Police stopped a suspect after a Lasby Lane resident reported two men were entering cars on the street. One suspect got away on foot before police arrived and couldn't be tracked

by the police dog, but police stopped a second suspect in the area. The 1996 GMC Jimmy the suspect was driving, and the plates, had been stolen in Brampton the day before.

Approximately \$10 in change was taken from a van on Lasby Lane and a car stereo, CDs and speakers were taken from a car on McDonald Boulevard. Those goods were recovered by police from the stolen Jimmy.

A 16-year-old Acton High school student was charged with possession of a controlled substance after he gave police a baggie containing two grams of marijuana at the school last Thursday morning.

School officials, concerned the student was under the influence, called police who questioned him. The youth admitted he was high and turned over a baggie of pot and was

charged.

A 35-year-old Mississauga man was charged with impaired driving after being stopped by police in Acton at 10:22 p.m. on Sunday. Police noticed a motorist driving a 1988 New Yorker erratically in the Mill Street East and Frederick Street area and pulled him over. Police noticed obvious signs of impairment and charged with driver.

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What's Inside



Acton Curling Club will be the scene of the Ontario Tour Championship this weekend. See Page 8.



Disappointed because the big snowfall of last Friday dissipated in the mists, this pooch nevertheless enjoys what we have. See editorial on Page 4.



The Old Town Hall on Willow St. N. has some new tenants. See the story in Grapevine on Page 5.



One Acton area resident took home a bundle from the Mohawk Casino recently. See Grapevine on Page 5.

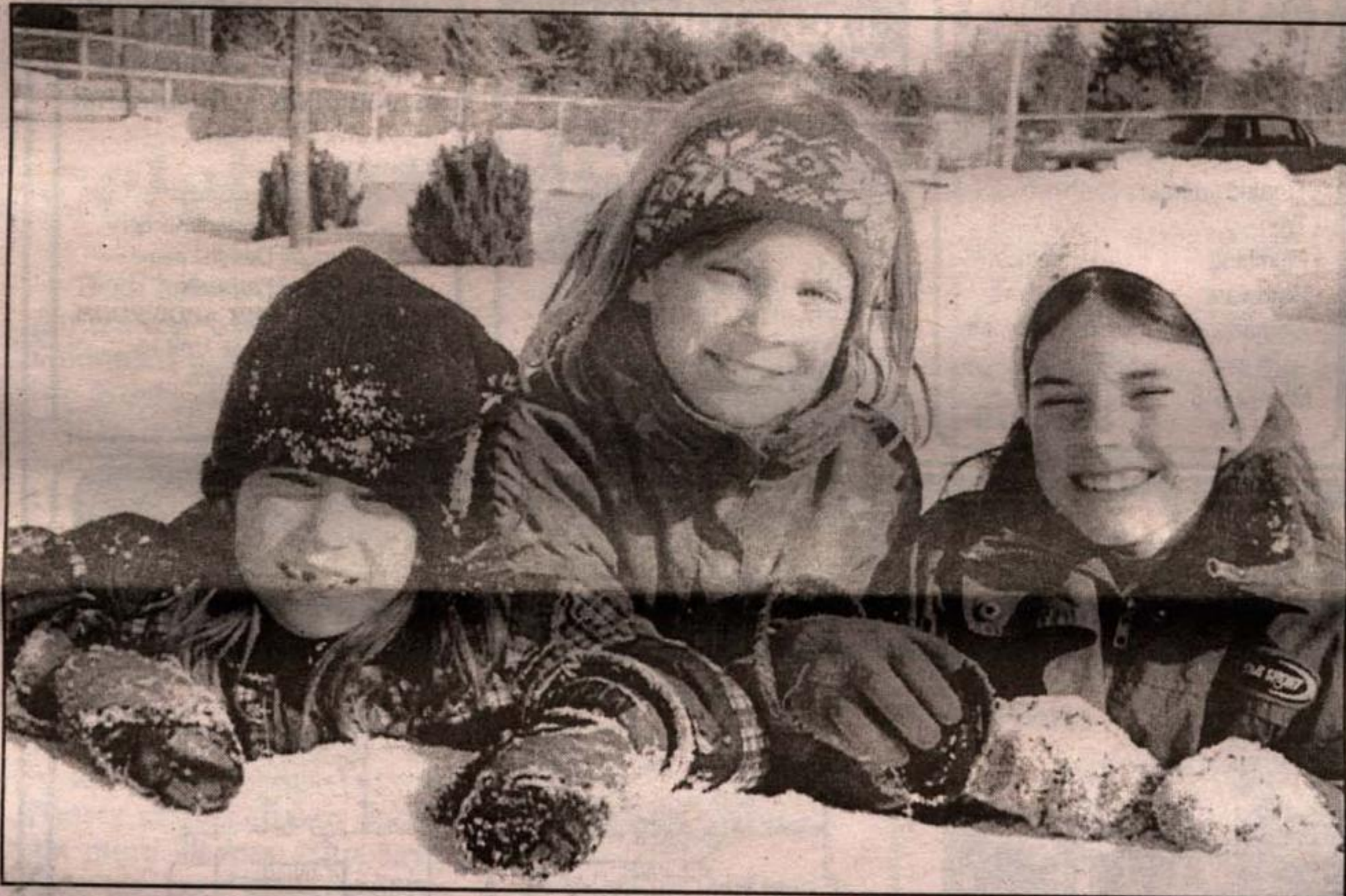
Snow big job for works dept.

17 new Halton police officers

Halton Regional Police Service welcomed its newest officers at a swearing-in ceremony at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville on Friday, Feb. 18. Fifteen of the Constables are new to policing while the other two have previous police experience, one in western Canada and one in England.

Justice of the Peace, His Worship William T. Phipps, administered the oath of office.

Officers assigned to District 1, Georgetown's 12 Division include Samantha Brown, an Oakville resident; Paul Foley, from Ottawa-Carlton Region and Fernando Vieira from Ottawa-Carlton.



OUTDOOR FUN! Threats of a heavy snowfall last Friday didn't bother this threesome who enjoy the white stuff that's already fallen. Left o right, Rebecca Amirault, 6, Stephanie Barber, 9, and Rachel Amirault, 8. — Angela Tyler photo

Y2K storm keep staff on toes

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

While school kids all over Halton were hoping for a snow day on Friday and their parents were fearing winter's worst, the Town's public works department was gearing up for whatever Mother Nature had in store.

While the anticipated blizzard didn't materialize, the eight-to-10-centimetre snowfall kept crews busy until Tuesday, salting, sanding and ploughing the 330-kilometres of Town roads, 80-kilometres of Regional roads and selected sidewalks the Town clears.

From their offices in the Trafalgar Road works yard, Public Works manager Ted Drewlo and senior supervisor Keith Smiley, hope for the best, but are prepared for the worst with para-military precision.

"Once we know a storm is coming we load our 10 salt trucks, check our pre-plan and alert staff. Regardless of the weather, every route is checked once a shift so we know what shape it is in," Drewlo said.

From December until April, four times a day, a supervisor checks with Environmental Canada, a Regional weather source and the Internet for the latest forecast. Based on

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Rest home people plus for Acton

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSK
The New Tanner

Residents of Mill House, Parkside and York House are neither criminals nor mentally challenged says the administrator for two of the institutions.

Nor are the residences group homes as they were called in a New Tanner story last week.

"They are rest homes," says Helen Quinn. "Residents come to us upon release from hospital with legitimate mental illnesses like manic depressive disorder, schizophrenia and chronic depression. Many of these people are quite intelligent. Several have had break downs at university while working on

their degrees. It really hurts them to think people are afraid of them or worried about having them around. They're not a threat to the community."

Most of the residents at the three homes go to work at places like the Stride shop on Commerce Court, Quinn says. Besides going to work daily, they are involved with supervised recreation programs through Oasis and strictly adhere to house rules like taking their medication and avoiding alcohol or "street" drugs.

If they refused to follow the prescribed medication regime they would be returned to the hospital or agency that placed them with their home, Quinn says. Residents know that and know

they don't want to go back into a hospital setting.

The rest homes are indeed half-way houses since residents are working to regain their independence, but its freedom from illness not from any brush with the law or the aftermath of drug abuse. They need structured environments and support while they learn to live with their new limitations, Quinn explains.


Most of their residents stay at the homes four to six years and then leave to return to their former residences or to set up new homes for themselves in their old communities. New medications being what they are, residents may be

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