

# Federal Funding for apartment in Acton

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
The New Tanner

An Acton apartment available to homeless families on a short-term basis is one of the first housing initiatives approved by Halton Council under a federal homelessness program.

The Supporting Communities Partnerships Initiative (SCPI) funds community proposals to deal with homelessness and Halton Council recently approved \$29,000

for Halton Hills Community Support and Information (HHCSI) for the Acton apartment.

HHCSI executive director Joan Barham told Town Council recently that the transitional housing, as it's being called, focuses on families who through separation, divorce or relocation find themselves homeless.

Money or no money, Barham said it is "extraordinary difficult" to find housing in Acton and Georgetown.

"This transition housing is to support families that are in desperate circumstances for

up to two months, so our community support worker can work with them, to look for housing," Barham said, adding the worker would look at the whole family's needs, including medical services for support or counselling.

"We're hoping that every two months we'll be able address the immediate needs and then move people on so that another family can move in," Barham said.

On Wednesday, Halton Council is expected to approve another HHCSI project, a larger townhouse in Georgetown.

Adelina Urbanski, Halton's commissioner of social and community services, said in affluent Halton its "easier to hide" homelessness, but it's still there.

"Because our numbers for being affluent, well-off economically and well-educated are so high, it means our percentage of people that are struggling at the bottom end are smaller. That's a good thing, but we still do have those problems, so it's easier to hide when you have those kinds of dynamics go-

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## What's Inside



Beardmore Leathers gets in the spirit of the season with a hefty cheque to two charities. See Page 6.



Don't say Merry Festive to columnist Mike O'Leary. He's on his annual rant on Page 5.



Heritage Acton has produced an unusual calendar which goes on sale today. See Page 3.



Mayor Kath Gastle brings residents up to date on some interesting Halton Hills business on Page 12.

# Town hopes that good fences will make good neighbours

## HHCSI: cradle to grave service

Endless grant writing and ambitious fundraising allow Halton Hills Community Support and Information (HHCSI) to offer Acton and Georgetown residents social and information services from "naught to death."

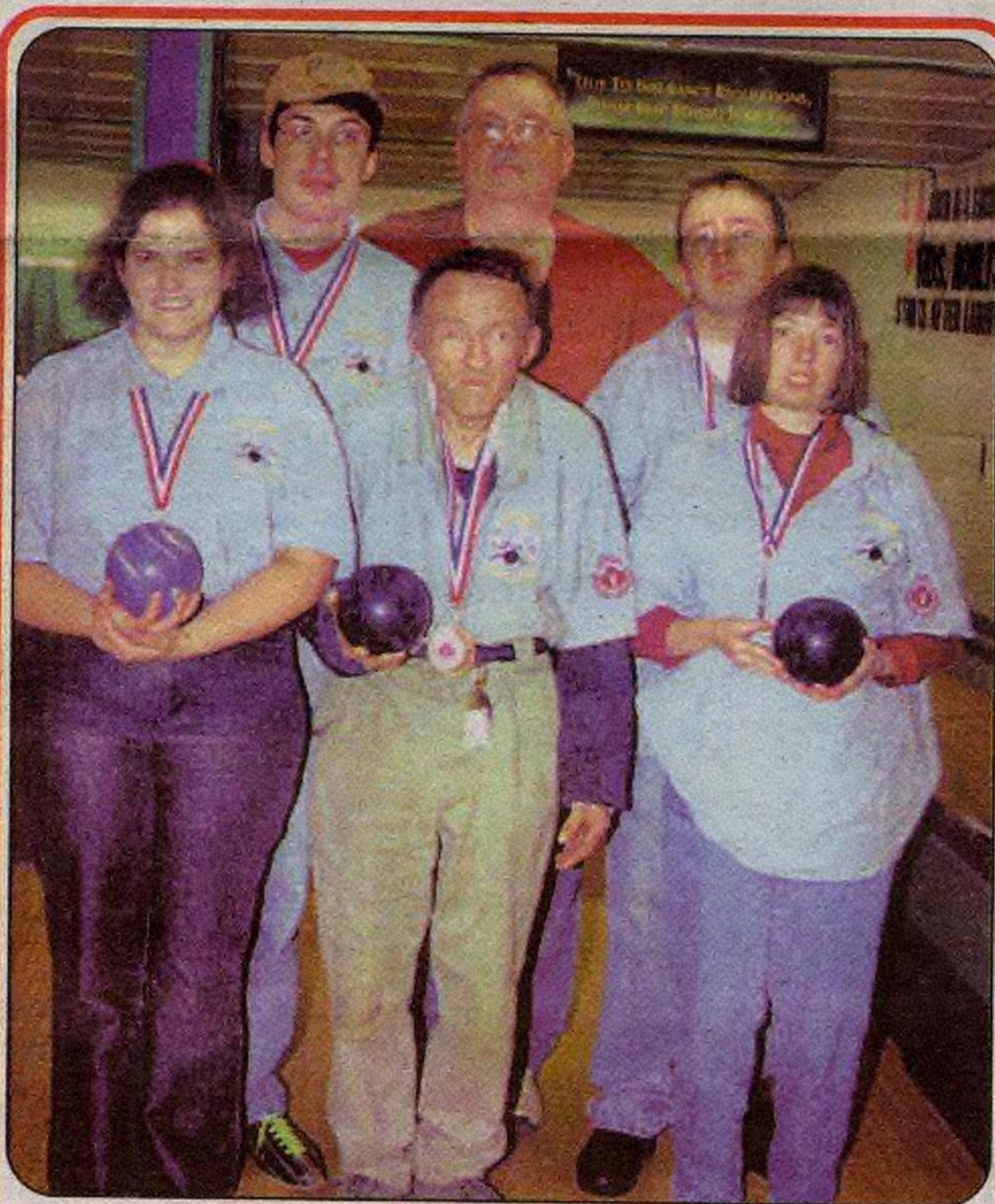
Joan Barham, the new executive director of HHCSI, told Town Council last week that having an organization which can answer questions and look after people "cradle to grave," is "quite special for a community to have," but it's also expensive.

"One of the key things for us is that we have to raise \$150,000 a year if our budget is to be met. That's 30 per cent of our budget," Barham said, adding they only get government funding for children's and seniors' programs.

"We don't have on-going funding for our youth programs which are so vital in this community - both in Acton and in Georgetown," she said, adding information services and transportation programs are also not funded.

While the umbrella HHCSI organization was founded in 1998 in an amalgamation of Acton Support Services and Information Centre and several Georgetown social agencies,

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**GOING BRONZE:** The Acton Alleycats Special Olympic five-pin bowling team received bronze medals at a recent tournament in Oakville. They were +204 as a team. Team members include: Deon Haggert, Erin Bleiler, Brad Lyons, John Richie, Kim Sullivan, and coach, Gord LaBombard. - Ellen Priehl photo.

## Outlaw barbed wire

By FRANCES NIBLOCK  
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"Good fences make good neighbours," - Robert Frost

Like the Frost poem, *Mending Wall*, where neighbours fix a shared fence, the Town hopes a new proposed fence bylaw will help some neighbours mend their own fences.

For the first time, the bylaw would restrict the height of fencing, as well as govern the type of materials, outlawing the barbed wire and 10-foot-tall fences that angered some Georgetown residents when erected by their neighbours earlier this year.

The proposed bylaw does not include a so-called "grandfather clause" that would allow existing fences not meeting the height criteria to remain in place. All fences must meet the new height restriction within four years of approval by Council (expected later this month or early next), not the seven years recommended by Town staff who said it was a "reasonable" amount of time to expect compliance. All fences made of barbed wire, chicken wire, cable and any other hazardous material will be banned and must be removed when the bylaw is approved.

Continued on Page 2.

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