

Mayor hosts meeting to save youth centres

No details were available at presstime, but both short and long-term funding options to try to save Acton's Off The Wall youth centre were discussed at a meeting on Tuesday.

Last week, angry Acton parents called for Town money to keep the Mill Street centre open, a message echoed by Georgetown parents who are also unhappy with a decision by the board of directors of Halton Hills Com-

munity Support and Information (HHCSI) to close June 1 unless sustainable funding is found.

At general committee on Monday, Georgetown and Halton Councillor John Day, acting as a citizen member of a committee trying to raise \$10,000 to keep the centres open until the end of June, said Mayor Kathy Gastle offered to host a meet-

ing to discuss the issues.

Days said the committee of citizen volunteers and service clubs would also meet this week to look at short-and sustainable funding options to try to keep the Acton and Georgetown centre open until the end of June, when HHCSI learns if grant money will be available to help pay the \$130,000 annual cost to run the services and centres.

Day said two open houses at the youth centres last week showed there "is a desire, certainly, to keep them open to see what happens with the Trillium (grant) funding..."

After accumulating a deficit of \$40,000 over the past few years for youth services, the HHCSI board of directors voted to close the centres unless sustainable funding can be found.

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What's Inside



Acton and area's top students to be honoured by Halton School Board. See Page 3.

LETTERS

We get letters on a variety of topics. Turn to Page 8.



Looking for a mother's Day gift? Turn to Pages 10 and 11 for a selection of gifts.



Acton Minor Hockey Asso'n held its annual awards banquet recently. Turn to Page 17.

Town clean-up big success

POLICE BEAT

Phone line cut

Police are looking for "the idiot" who used a sharp object to cut the cord and steal the handset to the after-hours telephone outside the Mill Street police sub-station.

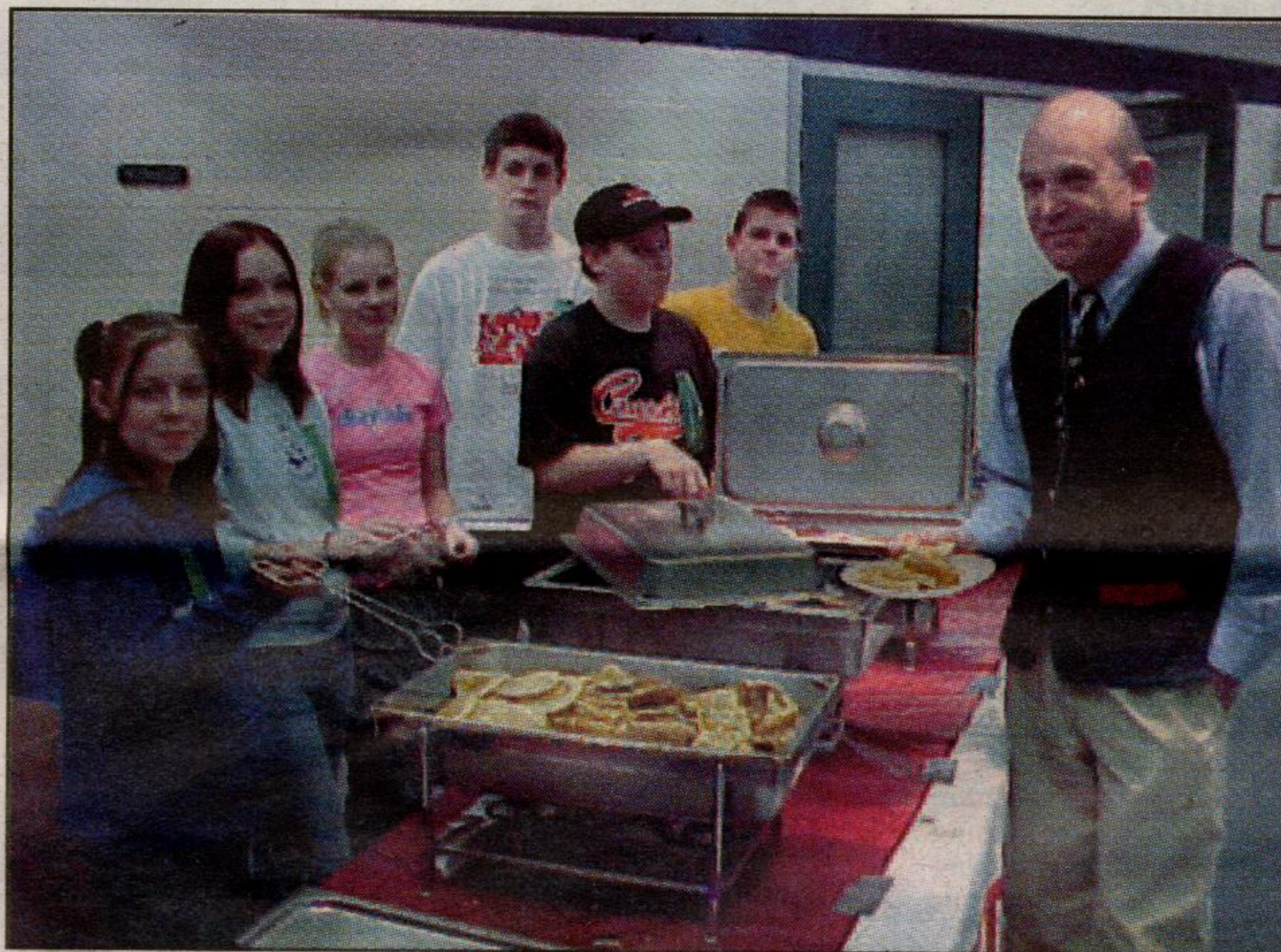
The phone is a direct line to Halton police headquarters and is used by people who need help when police are not at the Acton depot. Police believe the handset was stolen between April 17 and 24.

"Somebody obviously thinks this is some kind of a trophy, but they certainly compromise public safety by doing that (stealing the handset)," Halton Detective Sergeant Don Cousens said on Monday.

"There could be a scenario where an individual is in need, immediate need of police attention, and that's the only thing there is," he said.

Damage is estimated at \$250.

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GETTING TO WORK: The Kinette Community Brunch this past Sunday was in support of Off The Wall. Many students went to work to help raise money needed to save the centre. Serving patron Murray Brown were, left to right, Amy Paton, Melissa Brownley, Danielle Goudie, Dan Hanson, Robert Weatherbee and Tim Alarie. — Angela Tyler photo

500 bags of garbage collected

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
 The New Tanner

Now that Halton Hills has had a thorough spring cleaning, the challenge is to keep it litter-free and "looking good" according to Ward 3 Councillor Jane Fogal who spearheaded Saturday's "tremendously successful" Clean Up Halton Hills Day.

Approximately 500 bags of garbage were collected by volunteers all over the town, and at Monday's general committee meeting, Fogal thanked those who helped with the cleanup and announced another one would be held before this summer's Communities in Bloom contest judging.

The three rural councillors, Rick Bonnette, Bryan Lewis and Joan Robson, issued a statement thanking all of the rural residents who spent Saturday cleaning up the ditches and roadsides.

They said the "mountains of garbage" collected points out real concerns of rural residents that rural roads are not a desired location for garbage, whether it's thrown

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Compromise reached on Fence bylaw

While the Town won't be "fence police," a new bylaw to govern their height, appearance and location will give residents unhappy with their neighbour's fences a process to settle their beefs, and allow those with fences that don't meet the bylaw to ask for an exemption to the rules.

The fence bylaw, expected to receive final approval on May 6 after being unanimously supported by Council recently, includes a variance process that allows people with fences that don't meet the bylaw to apply for an exemption and a complaint system for those who want to object to a neighbour's fence.

It's a compromise bylaw, worked out by Town staff after a number of ratepay-

ers repeatedly asked that all existing fences be "grandfathered," or exempted from the new rules that restrict the height of backyard fences to seven feet and front yard fences to three feet.

If the Town receives a complaint about a fence, Town staff would investigate and if it didn't meet the bylaw, the owner could either change the fence so it did comply, or apply for a variance from the bylaw.

Neighbours would be notified of the variance application by way of a sign on the property and would be able to comment at a hearing. Council would make the final decision.

People with fences that don't comply with the bylaw and those that want to

build a fence that doesn't comply can also apply for a variance.

Mayor Kathy Gastle said the Town needed the bylaw "many years ago."

"We're not here to be the fence police — that was never the intent... we have discovered there aren't a lot of problems out there, but there are some and we need to deal with them effectively, efficiently and quickly," Gastle said.

Fences put up as part of subdivision or site plan agreements, those around wrecking yards, swimming pools, industry or utility installations, tennis courts and Town recreation facilities are exempt from the bylaw.

The bylaw, which becomes law once

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A SPRING BREAKTHROUGH EVENT

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