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## Ask funds for nurse...

*Continued from Page 1* received the NP application and, with help from the economic development officer, is collaborating with the Region whose support the Town will need.

She also said no local physician has stepped forward, as required by the application, to provide consultation and support to the NP.

Council approved a recommendation from Councillors Moya Johnson and Rick Bonnette to support an application for NP funding.

Godfrey said there will be other applicants for the Halton dollars, but none of that has been designated as under-served when it comes to family doctors.

Applications must be filed by December 10. Successful communities will announced in January and nine to 12 months later, NPs should be seeing patients, hopefully in Halton Hills, local politicians say.



**SEASON STARTER:** Wetherby's held their annual Christmas Open House this past weekend. Regular customer Alison McGill (left) from Georgetown took a peek at a few of the items owner Jo Lister (centre) and staff member Linda Neary were featuring. — Angela Tyler photo

## Beautification costs questioned

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The New Tanner

Like persistent weeds, questions from some politicians about how much it costs to make Halton Hills look good continue to crop up at the Town council table.

Those questions could bloom during upcoming budget talks when councillors debate where the \$50,000 earmarked annually for beautification will come from.

Before receiving a staff report last week detailing how the money was spent this year to participate in the national Communities in Bloom (CIB) beautification program—earning great marks and an honourable mention for community involvement—councillors heard from CIB booster Dawn Falls who said

it's not easy to justify putting money into beautification, but "it's not just about flowers."

"It's about a whole community coming together and how we learn to showcase what we are. Being part of this national program is like free advertising for Halton Hills," Falls said, before being praised by Mayor Kathy Gastle as a tireless ambassador.

After thanking corporate sponsors and staff who made CIB a success this year, Ward Two Councillor Bryan Lewis said he was "troubled" that \$50,000 won't cover the cost of suggestions from the CIB judges.

"Is that it? Is that done? Is that finished, or is there a chance, hat in hand, Communities in Bloom coming back for more money?" Lewis said, adding, "is 50 (thousand dollars) final? Amen?"

Treasurer Ed DeSousa said while Council voted to set aside \$50,000 annually for beautification there's no money set aside in a beautification reserve for this year. Last year's money came from an unexpected windfall.

"It will have to come from taxes or somewhere else..." DeSousa said, adding this year's proposed capital budget includes \$50,000 and suggesting that the CIB committee come back with a budget.

Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson suggested the debate over how much will be spent on beautification be saved for the budget talks.

Noting she'd been "one of the more skeptical" councillors

concerning CIB spending, Johnson said it is a "wonderful program," but added they have to "keep an eye on whether they can afford \$50,000 or not, and how much we can afford."

Georgetown Councillor Jane Fogal called CIB a terrific vehicle for the Town to deal with some problems—like littering—and to enhance its assets.

Most of last year's budget was spent on banners, planting beds and a gateway on Ontario Street. The judge's recommendations include improving tidiness by erasing graffiti and dirt with a steam eradicator, enhancing heritage preservation by developing a heritage tree list and catalogue and a tree malignance policy, and more floral displays by the commercial and industrial sector.

Both the Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) and Acton Horticultural Society received special praise from the CIB judges for the "beautiful baskets, planters etc." in the downtown core.

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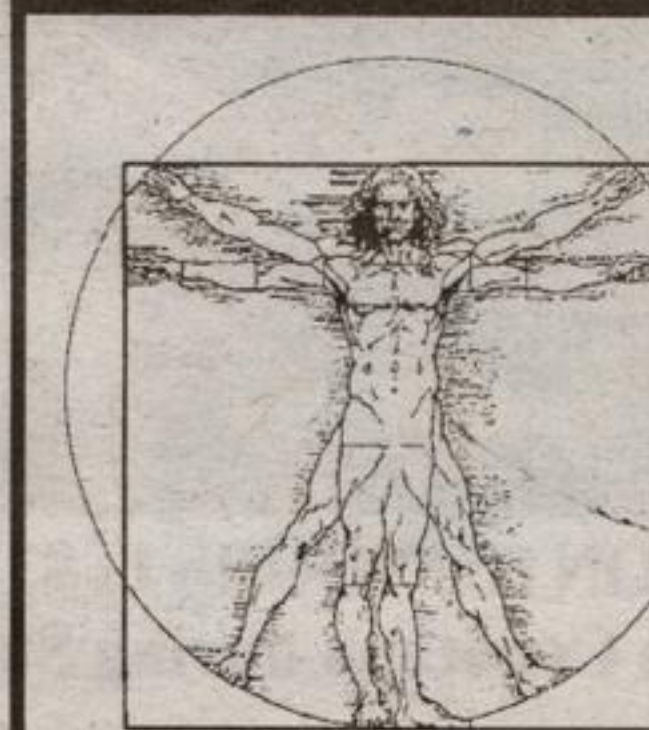
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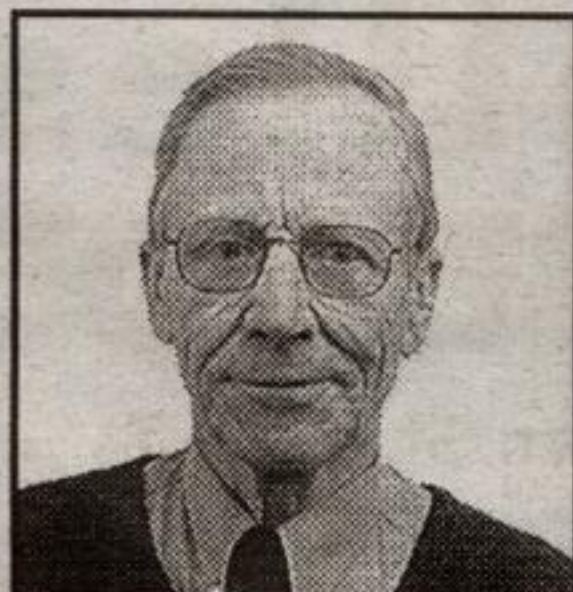
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