

More police needed ...

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report to police, but described the police presence in Acton as "slim" and signed the petition "in support of all the businesses to be protected and ensure a little more staff will be available if there are incidents," Cieslok said on Tuesday.

Acton is staffed by two officers in two cars, 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, with reduced hours for the village constable.



PAMPERED GIRLS: A recent night out for the Christian Reformed Church's Gems girl's group included hair cutting and colouring, ear piercing and manicures at Profile Hair Salon on Mill Street. Profile employee Joanna Scott works her magic with a hair blower on one lucky Gem. —Submitted photo

GEORGETOWN CINEMAS 3

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Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4A8
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PRICES

\$4.25 Tues, Adult \$8.00
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ALL MATINEES \$4.25

1 Lord of the Rings: Return of the King Daily 7:30 PM	14 A Violence
2 Peter Pan (matinee Only) Sat-Sun 2:00 P.M.	PG
3 Along Came Polly (Starts Friday) Mature Theme-Not Recommended for Young Children Daily 6:45- 9:00 Sat-Sun 2:00 P.M.	PG
4 Cheaper by the Dozen Daily 6:45 Sat-Sun 2:00 P.M.	PG
5 The Last Samurai (Starts Friday) Daily 8:45 P.M.	14 A Violence

Gift Certificates Available
Lotto Centre -Georgetown
Market Place
Theatre parking available at the rear.

Taxpayers in Halton Hills should brace for tax hike

Halton Hills taxpayers should "brace" for an "inevitable" tax increase as Town councillors prepare for budget talks at the end of the month.

Councillors asked staff to prepare a base budget – the cost of maintaining programs and services – with no more than a seven per cent increase. They also want the budget committee to consider an additional two per cent dedicated tax rate increase to pay for road repairs, and modifications to the base budget that do not exceed a one per cent tax increase.

If approved, the total 10 per cent tax increase would add \$83 to the Town tax bill of \$840 for a property assessed at \$250,000.

In August, councillors also asked staff to come back with suggestions to reduce the proposed 7 per cent base budget increase to five percent.

Preparing for a department head budget workshop on Wednesday (January 21), Mayor Rick Bonnette, who chairs the budget committee, said the "real crunch" would come when the budget committee begins line-by-line debate on January 26.

Asked if a double-digit increase would be acceptable to taxpayers and/or councillors, Bonnette said the public is bracing for a tax increase.

"They know it's going to come – it's inevitable it's going to come – it's just a

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matter of how heavy it will be," Bonnette said on Tuesday, adding it is council's and staff's job to present a budget that is fair and meets the public's expectations.

Bridge builders

A composite bridge – reportedly the first of its kind in Canada – was built by an Acton firm for Guelph/Eramosa Township to replace an aging bowstring bridge on the Sixth Line of Eramosa, north of Brucedale on Highway 24.

Saltech, on Commerce Crescent, earned high marks from Guelph/Eramosa Township public works manager Larry Van Wyck, who said the firm's steel, wood and fibreglass bridge saved the municipality \$25,000.

Van Wyck said the much lighter replacement bridge is now wide and strong enough for use by heavy trucks and emergency vehicles that could not be accommodated by the old bridge, which may end up at the Wellington Country Museum.

Pair of thieves loot Georgetown service stn.

Halton Police are investigating a robbery that occurred in the daytime hours of Wednesday, January 7 at the Cango Gas Bar on 358 Guelph Street, Georgetown.

Police said about 1:35 p.m., two males entered the kiosk of the gas station. While one of the suspects spoke with the clerk, the second suspect produced a handgun, pointed it at the clerk and demanded cash.

The store clerk surrendered an undisclosed quantity of money to the robbers and both of them fled the kiosk on foot to the rear of the nearby plaza. The clerk briefly followed

the suspects and observed a small red vehicle fleeing the area that may have been driven by a third person.

Both suspects are similarly described as: male, black, early 20s in age, approximately 6 ft. in height with slim, athletic builds. Both were wearing black cotton jackets with dark hoods that were up during the robbery. The suspects were also wearing black leather face covers and nylon head covers during the robbery.

Halton Police are asking anyone with information concerning the robbery to call them at (905) 825-4777 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Christians of Acton

(whatever church you belong to or don't belong to)

You are invited to the annual meeting of the "Clans"

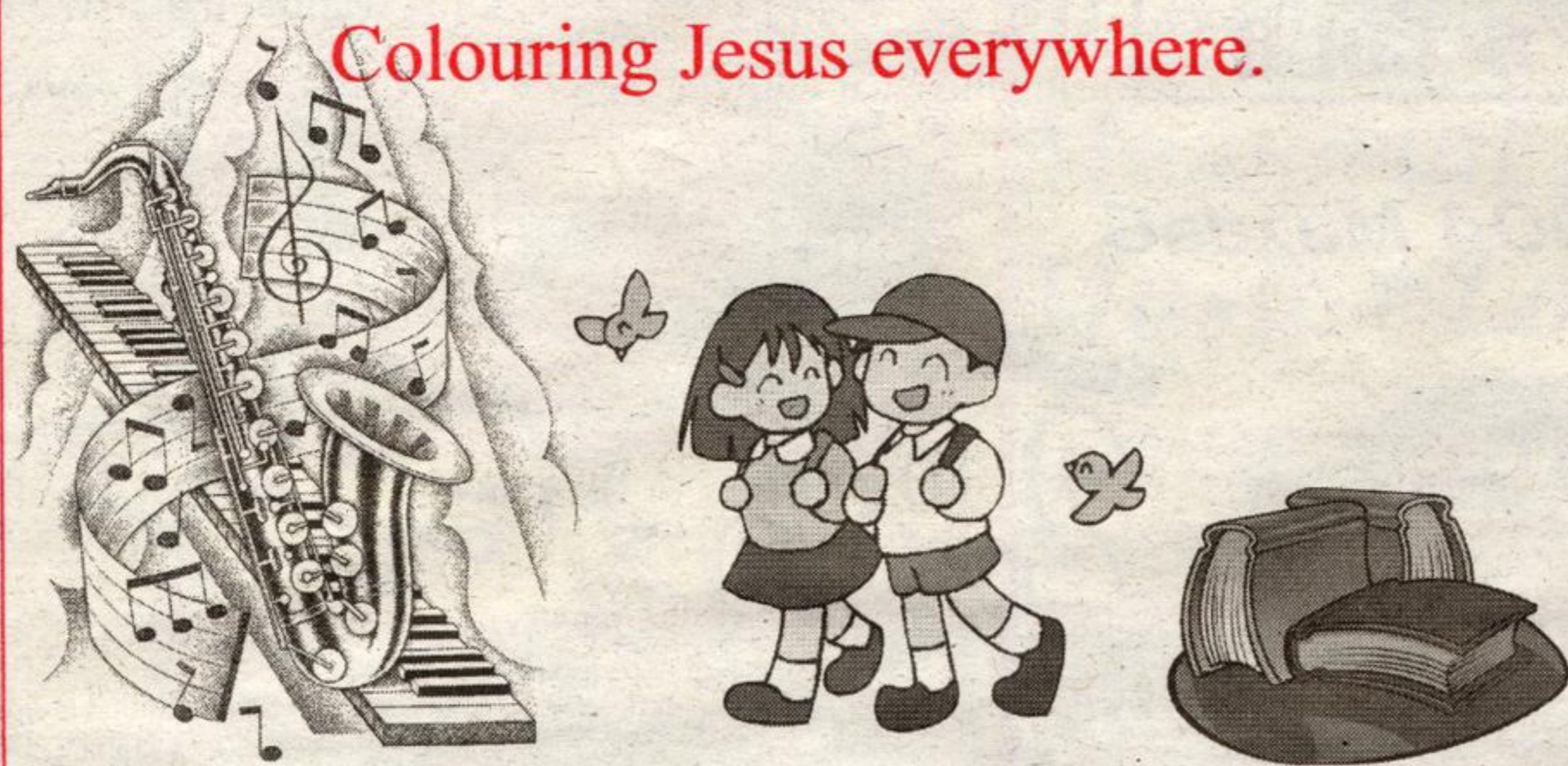
It is the Acton Ministerial Association's annual gathering at the:

Canadian Legion
to Pray for Christian Unity
this Sunday, January 18, 2004
at 10:30 am.

The Children are invited to a Special Celebration at the nearby St. Joseph's School at 10:30 am. (Doors open at 10am)

Music, fun, stories etc. with:

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Colouring Jesus everywhere.



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