

Set clock ahead and change your battery

Clocks will be set ahead one hour as daylight saving time begins on this Sunday, April 3.

Halton Hills Fire Safety Technician Tom Robertson asks, "what better time is there than this to serve as a reminder to change your smoke alarm batteries as well?"

While the Fire Service strongly recommends the smoke alarm batteries be changed at least once a year, we recommend doing it twice a year. "That's why we adopted the saying, "change your clocks - change your batteries", says Robertson adding, "spring and fall are fixed reminders to change the batteries and test your smoke alarms."

Safety Specialist David Ford states "smoke alarms are your

first defence against fire, so it only makes good sense to look after these devices," adding "change the batteries, test the alarms and ensure they are working, and if they are not, replace them".

What should you do if the smoke alarm sounds through the night? Robertson says, "Implementing and practising a home escape plan with the family will help in a safe evacuation of all family members should an emergency occur".

While provincial law states every resident is required to have at least one working smoke alarm, the Halton Hills Fire Protection & Prevention Services encourages you to have one smoke alarm per floor and outside all sleeping areas.



APPRECIATION: Two representatives of the William Osler Health Centre Foundation attended the Acton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion executive meeting last Monday night and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Branch for the ongoing support of the Georgetown hospital. President George O'Donnell accepted it on behalf of the Branch. Left to right Marie Zions, George O'Donnell and Joan Burdette. - Jimmy Hayes photo

Halton mental health services receives \$1.07 million 'investment'

Mental Health agencies across Halton will be receiving a \$1,070,333 investment from the McGuinty government to help more people with mental illness receive the treatment they need to stay out of the criminal justice and correctional systems, Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn announced on March 22.

"Our government is committed to the fair and compassionate treatment of mentally ill people," said

Flynn. "We expect that these community-based enhancements will reduce the number of people with mental illness in the criminal justice system and allow them to access the treatment and services they need."

The government is investing \$27 million annually in community mental health agencies across the province that will provide services to an additional 12,000 people. Mental health services will be provided to non-violent offenders. People with mental illness who commit serious crimes will continue to be prosecuted under the criminal code.

"The staff and board of directors of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Halton Branch, applaud the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for their efforts to treat our citizens with a men-

tal illness in the community, where they belong," said Diane Doherty, Executive Director for CMHA/Halton. "We can now start moving forward in preventing institutionalization, diverting those with a mental illness back to the community and letting prisons do what they were designed to do."

Since 1995, there has been a 27 per cent increase in the number of mentally ill people who have been admitted to correctional facilities in Ontario.

The funding announced is part of the government's \$463-million investment in community mental health services for 2004/05, which is an increase of \$65 million from 2003. The government will add another \$120 million over the next few years, reaching \$583 million annually by 2007/08.

LEGION NEWS
BRANCH
No. 197
By James Hayes
P.R.O.

Comrades;

Two representatives of the William Osler Health Centre Foundation attended the Branch executive meeting last Monday night and presented a certificate of appreciation to the Branch for our ongoing support of the Georgetown hospital. President George O'Donnell accepted it on behalf of the Branch.

As you all know the federal government has declared 2005 as the Year of the Veteran, and plans are being made to hold a veterans' parade in Acton. In addition, permission has been obtained to place decorative banners on the lamp posts on Mill Street to mark the year. The date of the parade is June 25 2005; please mark your calendar.

The increasingly popular Candlelight Tribute involving the students of our community is promising to be an even larger event this year, with more and more students wanting to take part. Remember the date: May 5 2005.

At the general meeting held on Monday, March 24 the members present agreed to explore the feasibility of increasing the space available to the 197 Air Cadet Sqn., by building an addition to the branch.

A joint committee will be formed, comprising members of Branch 197, the Air cadet Sqn. And the Air Cadet League of Canada.

Now that spring is here, maintenance chairman Larry McAfee will need your help at the Branch on Sunday, April 3 at 9a.m. Please contact Larry and make the offer: it's your Branch.

PS. Don't forget to put your clock ahead, you don't want to be late do you?

Date for your calendar: April 15, Wayne is organizing a "Luau" in the games room with the fun starting at 8:30p.m. Pork-ka-Bobs, music, and Carl in a grass skirt.

Yours in comradeship..

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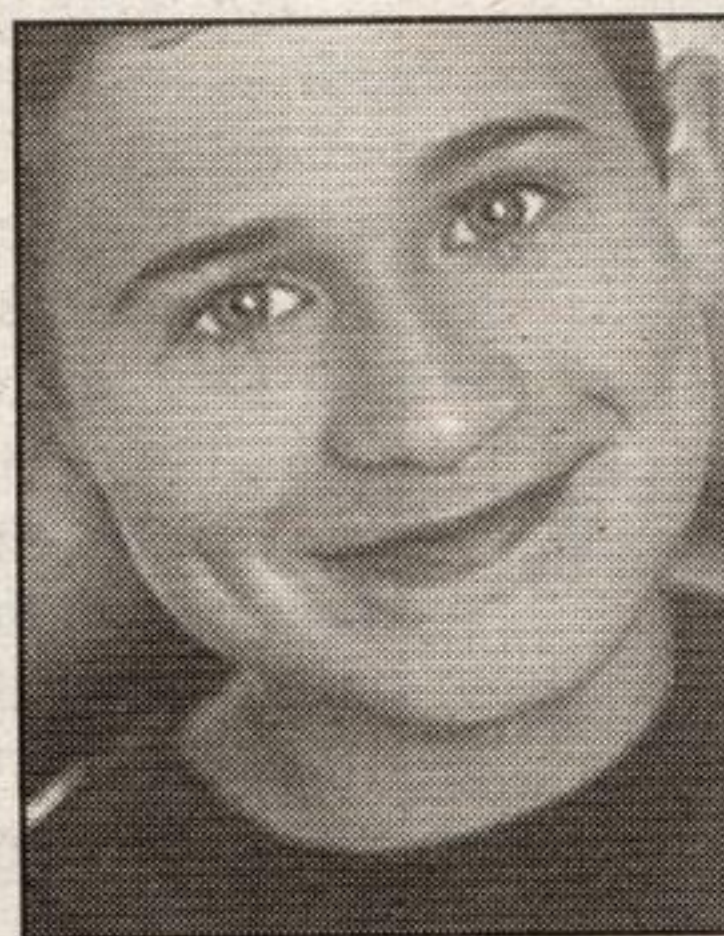
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