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News

Digest

Seeking nominations

Once again, members of the Acton Rotary Club are accepting nominations for Acton's Citizen of the Year.

The nominations should give the full details of the nominee, reasons the nominee was suggested for consideration, as well as full information of the person sponsoring the nomination, including his or her name, address and telephone number. The nomination must also be signed by the sponsor.

The nomination can then be mailed to: Acton Citizen of the Year, c/o Acton Rotary Club, Box 22, Acton, Ont., L7J 2M2

Last year's recipient of the recognition was Jack Carpenter, longtime Acton resident and broadcaster who helped promote the Acton community through his Lighten Up Canada day celebrations.

Recreation brochure

By now area residents should have received their copy of the Recreation and Parks Department's Spring and Summer Community Activity and Service Guide. Anyone who did not receive a copy of the brochure should call the Recreation and Parks Department Program Information Hotline at 873-2600 ext. 275. Guides can also be picked up at town arenas, pools, libraries, Acton Hydro office; the EWAG in Erin; post offices in Georgetown, Acton, Huttonville, Cheltenham and Terra Cotta; the Royal Bank in Rockwood; IGA in Hillsburgh; and general stores in Ospringle, Speyside, Hornby and Norval. Registrations aquatic programs have to be received by noon Wednesday, March 13.

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Citizen of the Year



Lois Fraser, Georgetown's Citizen of the Year for 1995, was feted Tuesday night as Georgetown Lion Bob Jackson presented her with the plaque honoring her volunteer contributions to the community and town over the years. In addition to the presentation from the Lions, Lois received mementos from the provincial and federal governments, the Town of Halton Hills, Halton Region and Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce. Surprise musical performances from Georgetown Children's Chorus and Georgetown Globe Productions members added a new twist to the evening, recognizing Lois's efforts.
TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Teachers reeling after cuts

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

Shock! Disappointment! Anger! Devastation!

These are some of the words used by students, principals and teachers to describe the mood in public schools this week, after extensive layoff notices were handed out Tuesday by the Halton Board of Education. Board officials number the notices at 1,503 full and part-time employees, including 200 in north Halton (see chart on individual schools on page 12). Further cuts to management are expected in mid-May.

High school teachers with up to 11 years experience and elementary teachers with up to five years experience received pink slips. About a third of the teaching staff at each Georgetown High and Acton High have been laid off, and Robert Little School had nearly half of their teachers (seven of 15) receive notices.

"Aside from the death of a student or staff member, it was the worst week of my professional career," said Marie Jacobs, Georgetown and District High School principal. Tuesday she and her vice-principals had to deliver the grim news to staff members. Both Jacobs and Acton High School principal Joyce Bradley have no idea how to plan for the coming year without these staff members.

"Across the region, we haven't even talked about the possibility of shutting down programs," Bradley said. "We're trying to hang together as a group and be cheerful about all of this."

The laid off teachers at Acton High School (AHS) all wore pink slips to identify themselves Wednesday. AHS students Sarah Austin and Stephanie Smith really wanted to do something to lift the spirits of the teachers, so they held a teacher appreciation breakfast Friday morning. About 40 staff and 100 students attended the event.

"It went really, really, really well. I had nightmares, but seriously, it went really well," Austin said.

See STUDENTS, page 12



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