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News

Digest

Five foot cat?

A Sixth Line resident called police to say that a large cat-like creature was seen crossing the road and going into a swampy area. Police, Animal Control and the Ministry of Natural Resources were called to investigate, but didn't find anything. The cat was described as about 5 ft. long with a bushy tail. It appeared to be a tan-yellow color with darker stripes, police said.

Fore! Fore! Fore!

Look inside today's newspaper for a special 8-page Golf '96 pullout. It's full of information on area courses, special events and other tips.

Three people treated

Three people were treated and released after a collision Monday at the intersection of Mountainview Rd. and Campbell Gate in Georgetown. A 1990 Chevrolet was heading east on Campbell Gate when it collided with a southbound 1994 Saturn on Mountainview Ave. A Georgetown woman and passenger in the Chevrolet as well as the driver of the Saturn, a Caledon man, were taken to Georgetown Hospital. Police said the Chevrolet was severely damaged and the Saturn was moderately damaged. The cause of the collision is still under investigation.

Food drive

Georgetown District High School and the Love In Christ Food Bank were extremely busy on Saturday (April 27). Students were busy canvassing streets in Georgetown for donations. The bank serves 500 families in Georgetown.

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Feed me, Seymour!



It seems the somewhat nerdy Seymour (Nick Vance) is a little anemic from feeding Audrey II, a rare plant with an acquired taste for human blood, and a personality all its own. Co-worker and girlfriend Audrey (Jenn Johnson) is shocked to learn of Seymour's means of satisfying the plant's grizzly appetite in Acton High School's musical production of Little Shop of Horrors, which opened Thursday night in the school cafeteria.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Conflict concern at board

By TIM WHITNELL & PAUL MITCHISON
 Special to The Independent/Free Press

Three Halton Board of Education trustees believe the board's integrity may have been compromised based on the voting procedure used in approving the 1996-97 budget.

Burlington trustees Cheryl Craig and Robb McLeod and Oakville trustee Linda Lane feel a few of their colleagues have some explaining to do in the aftermath of a 10-6 vote Tuesday. That vote passed on a 1.9 per cent mill rate increase to Halton taxpayers.

The trio point to declared conflicts of interest announced by three trustees, including Halton Hills trustee Ethel Gardiner, on issues of salaries and benefits on Monday. Those same trustees nevertheless turned around and voted on the entire board budget, including possible reductions to staff compensation, Monday and Tuesday.

"I believe this entire process becomes tainted when people fail to declare potential conflicts," said Craig.

Craig contended a zero per cent tax increase should have resulted from Monday's special meeting of the board. She based her opinion on declared potential conflicts of interest made by Burlington's Joe Pavelka, Milton's Flo Belford and Halton Hills' Ethel Gardiner, prior to a vote on a zero per cent increase amendment made by Craig. The amendment passed 8-6.

Craig believes because of the declarations, the trio of trustees, all of whom have a relationship to someone working for the Halton board, should not have voted on the subsequent amended final budget motion asking for a zero per cent increase Monday. The motion lost 9-8 and no budget was approved, forcing matters to another day of debate.

See GARDINER, page 7

Fire destroys family home

By JANET BAINE
 Staff writer

A woman and her four children have lost all their possessions after a Fifth Line house was destroyed by fire Thursday morning.

The Milton Fire Department was called at 9:31 a.m. by a neighbor who noticed the fire at the older home which is north of 15 Sideroad, said Milton Fire Chief Harold Penson.

"When we arrived, it was fully involved. The first people in the house noticed a fire inside above the wood stove," he said. The likely cause of the fire was improper insulation around the stove, which had been there for some time.

Robin Popp lived in the house with her four children, but no one was home at the time of the fire. The family had no insurance, Penson said. There were no injuries and there is no estimate of the damage, but nothing survived the blaze.

Penson said three of the children attend Brookville School and one goes to Acton High School.

Brookville School sent a letter home to parents asking for donations of clothing, toys, household items or cash to help the family. There are three boys, ages 14, 13 and 9 years, and a 6-year-old girl in the family.

Lieutenant David Pearo of the Milton Salvation Army said his organization is prepared to help supply the family with items they need, including furniture, household items and clothing.

"They've lost everything. It's easy to say we can outfit you in used clothing, but probably the nicest thing we can do is give them nice things," he said. Money to buy new clothing is especially important for teenage children, he said. Small appliances are hard to come by and these are needed as well, Pearo said. The Salvation Army will take donations for the Popp family and will issue receipts.

The family's six hamsters and a kitten died.

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