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News

Digest

Fire victim fund

A trust account has been set up for the Popp family at the Royal Bank in Milton Mall.

The family's two storey Fifth Line house went up in flames April 25 and they had no insurance. Rev. Doyle Prior of the Ebenezer United Church said donations can be made to the account at Milton Mall on behalf of the family.

"I think we need to be responding as a community to these people," he said. "The money can be used for a new home or something on behalf of the children." Donations can be made to account # 546818 or ask about the Popp family trust account.

Lightning strike

The Halton Hills Fire Department was called to a barn on the Halton Hills/Milton Townline Wednesday at 4:52 p.m. after a report that it was struck by lightning. When they arrived, there was no fire.

Trafficking sweep

A 26-year-old Georgetown man was among 16 people charged with drug trafficking offences in a drug sweep carried out by Halton Regional Police Wednesday. The arrests came as a result of Project WISK, a three month undercover operation targeting illegal drug dealers in Oakville and Burlington. Undercover officers bought street level quantities of crack cocaine, marijuana, hash oil and LSD. In all, 66 drug trafficking charges were laid and seven people had been arrested previously, bringing the number of people charged up to 23, police said. The Georgetown man faces a charge of trafficking in narcotics and possession for the purposes of trafficking.

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Oh, brothers!



The always kind and sensible Milly (Carolyn Sevigny) gives her brother-in-law Gideon (Scott Lale) a short course in how to court a lady as another brother Frank (Richard Day) takes notes in Georgetown Globe Productions' *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, which opened Thursday night at John Elliott Theatre. The show runs until May 11.

TED BROWN Independent/Free Press

Layoffs imminent

Catholic board sets budget

Halton Roman Catholic School Board has approved a balanced \$125,181,283 budget at its April 30 meeting — but at a cost.

Catholic taxpayers will be paying more in education taxes and to balance the budget the school board was forced to cut \$1.3 million — to be achieved through staff layoffs and board reorganization.

Director of Education Fred Sweeney and Superintendent of human resources Steve Balogh said the proposed layoffs will touch virtually all sections of the board staff which includes 1,000 teachers, about 200 to 250 casual workers and 120 instructional assistants. Exact numbers on staff reductions were unavailable by press time.

Balogh explained that some of the savings may be achieved through attrition, but none will come through negotiated contracts.

"Any kinds of cuts in staff are going to have some impact in some part of the board," said Sweeney. "You can't have a reduction in grants, you can't have downsizing and not have an effect on the operation of the board. But, in our decisions, we have tried to look at things that will have the least damage in the operation of the board."

Those things, he said, are reductions or moratoriums on property, plants, conventions, conferences, staff development and furniture.

And, he added, "We are doing more and more corporate sponsorships. We're going to continue to pursue businesses and industry."

See IDENTICAL, page 12

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