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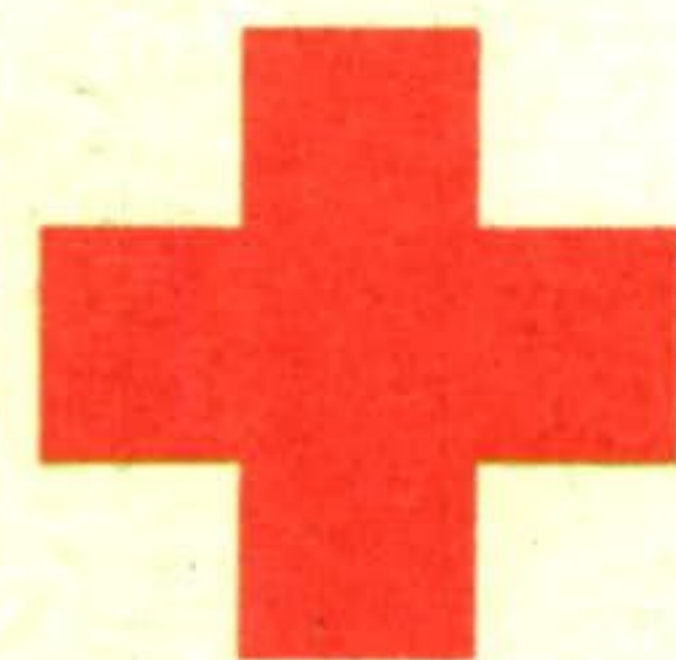
News

Digest

Acton man charged

A 34-year-old Acton man faces a number of charges stemming from a single shot gun recovered by Halton Regional Police Wednesday morning. At approximately 9 a.m., police responded to a complaint at a home, where they discovered a shot gun stored in an unsafe condition. Police say the man was found minutes later on Queen Street, and after a brief tussle was arrested. He was charged with possession of stolen property, obtaining a firearm without a permit, unsafe storage of a firearm, resisting arrest and criminal harrasment.

Red Cross clinic



Don't forget! A Red Cross blood donor clinic will be held May 13 at

Holy Cross Church Hall, 1:30-8 p.m. Please bring photo/signature ID with you.

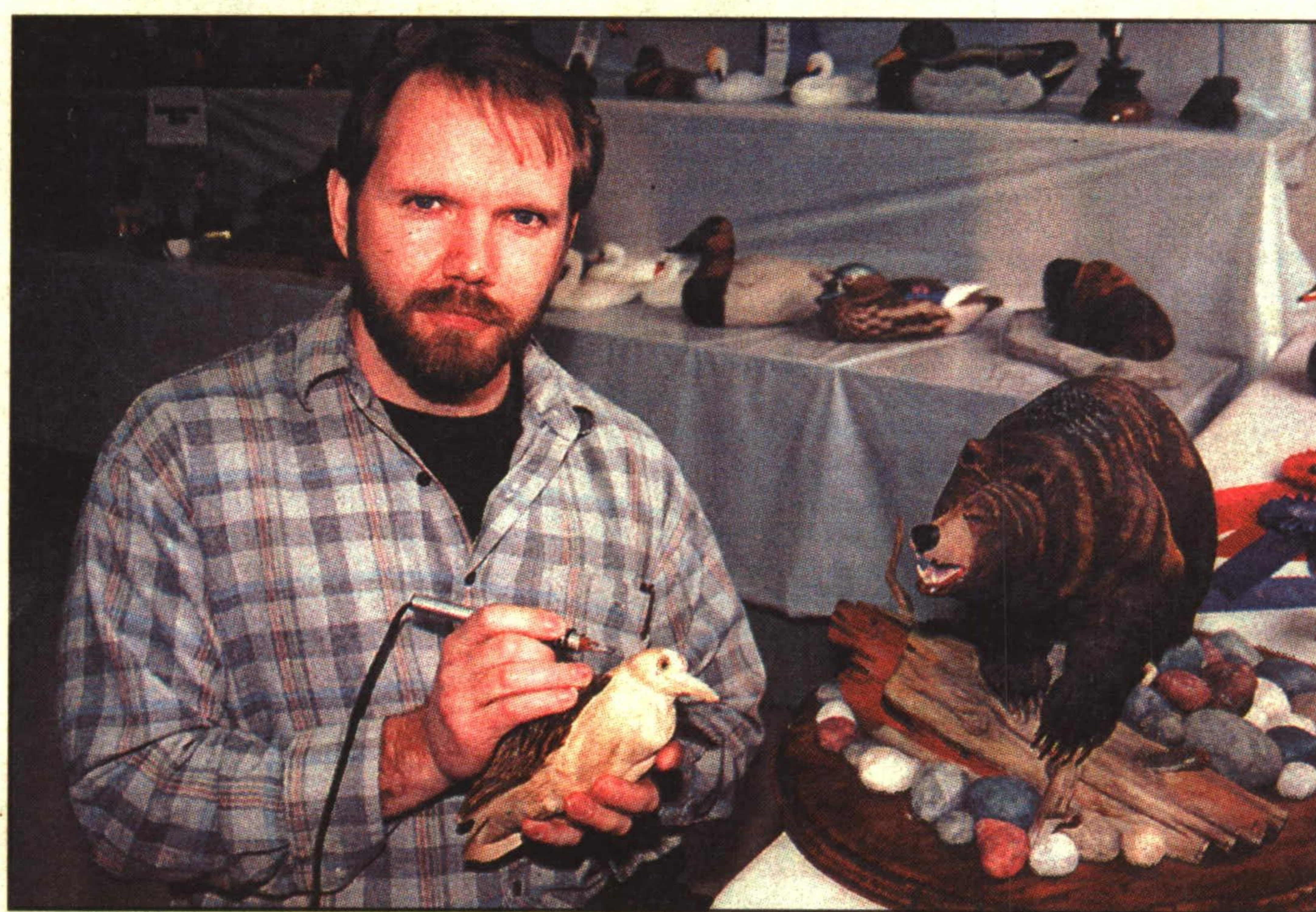
School flooded

Three separate rooms were flooded at St. Brigid's Catholic School in Georgetown South during a break-in this week. Sometime overnight Tuesday, unknown culprits pried open a window to one of the classrooms still under construction, and once inside removed a stainless steel sink. The removal caused damage to the water pipes which led to the flooding. Damage is estimated at more than \$500.

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Eye for details



Craig Thompson works on his latest carving at the Williams Mill. A group of Halton wood carvers were guests at the Mill's spring open house. Thompson's bear carving won the best carving at competitions in Sudbury and Kitchener. A group of 25 carvers meets once a week. Anyone interested in lessons or joining the club should contact Jim Van Koughnet at 877-0223.

Photo by HERB GARBUTT

Thieves target stereos

Car stereos seem to be the hot item around Georgetown, as police report a string of automobile break-ins in Georgetown earlier this week.

A total of seven vehicles were broken into between Sunday evening and Tuesday night, with five stereo systems being stolen in the process.

Six of the seven break-ins occurred overnight Sunday, with stereo systems removed from vehicles on Metcalfe Court, Greystone Crescent, James Young Drive and Killaoe Crescent. Nothing appeared missing from an entered Suzuki parked at the GO Station.

The final break-in, sometime between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, on the Sixth Line resulted in the removal of a wallet, a pair of pants and a belt. The wallet was later found in Oakville.

The stolen stereo systems and damage to vehicles is estimated at over \$8,000.

Halton Hills may lose two regional reps

By BRAD REAUME

Special to The Independent/Free Press

Despite pockets of resistance, regional councillors finished Tuesday's do-or-die debate with a broad consensus on the future of Halton Region.

In a 21-3 vote, councillors agreed to a redistribution of seats. The new council will consist of 20 representatives — seven each from Burlington and Oakville, and three each from Milton and Halton Hills.

Their recommendation will be sent to Al Leach, Ontario's minister of municipal affairs, for consideration among municipal reforms expected to be announced in June.

At least until the next municipal election in 1997,

regional council has 24 representatives — nine from Burlington, seven from Oakville, five from Halton Hills and three from Milton. The current balance has prevailed since Halton was formed in 1974.

The only flare-ups Tuesday centered on the loss of seats by both Burlington and Halton Hills.

Halton Hills mayor Marilyn Serjeantson called the proposal "a dictatorship" but Burlington mayor Walter Mulkewich said that contention was emotional, and not substantiated by the facts.

Don Taylor, director of the municipal boundary branch of the

Ministry of Municipal Affairs, was on hand for most of the debate. He said he was impressed that a consensus emerged on such a sensitive issue. He refused to say whether it would be adopted by the province. He did say policy announcements could be expected within a few weeks which will have an impact on local and regional government.



AL COOK

"The minister is saying municipalities have no choice in downsizing, given fiscal responsibilities," Taylor said. "However, the process should be locally initiated and driven."

At a special Halton Hills town council meeting held Monday

night councillors agreed to Ward 4 regional rep Al Cook's resolution to support a restructuring formula that the combined number of representatives between Halton Hills and Milton is equal to either Burlington or Oakville, and be one half of the Oakville and Burlington representation.

Ward 1 regional councillor Rick Bonnette said he could support that formula if the upshot was four regional councillors each for Milton and Halton Hills and eight each for Burlington and Oakville.

Ward 3 regional rep John Day said he had a problem discussing the numbers of councillors because "we don't have a vision of what a restructured region will look like."

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