

A taste of high school

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Minor hockey battle heats up

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Mayor's tourney par for the course

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NEWS AT A GLANCE

Up in smoke

■ Four Acton men face drug charges after Halton police discovered a marijuana-growing operation in a cornfield on the Sixth Line in Halton Hills.

Acting on a search warrant, the Halton Regional Police Service Drug Bureau went to the Sixth Line address Wednesday and a search of a cornfield revealed several marijuana plants ready for harvest. In total 12 pounds of marijuana with a street value of \$30,000 was seized.

Three men, aged 39, 35, and 42 are charged with possession of a narcotic. A fourth man, 43, is also charged with possession of a narcotic for the purposes of trafficking.

Pair arrested

■ Two Acton men have been arrested in connection with the break-in and theft of a about \$7,500 worth of sound equipment from the Salvation Army Church in Acton last month. The men were arrested Wednesday and most of the equipment was recovered. The men, aged 20 and 19, have been charged with break and enter and theft and possession of stolen property.

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The calm before the storm

It's not only students who have been preparing for school this past week. Georgetown District High School teachers Kim Swanson (left) and Bev Mascola were among the hundreds of teachers around town who spent time getting their classrooms and books in order in preparation for Tuesday morning, when the public school children will be once again hitting the books. Catholic students return on Wednesday.

Photo by Ted Brown

Boards to collect new lot levies

By KALI PEARSON
Special

The Halton Board of Education is proceeding with the collection of the controversial Education Development Charge (EDC), upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada as legal earlier this month.

The charge consists of a levy placed on new residential, commercial, industrial and institutional development. The money collected will be used to provide additional funds for providing school spaces without further tax increases to residents.

The board passed their EDC bylaw effective June 3, 1996, and may now acquire a charge of \$764 per new residential unit built in Halton and 0.470 per cent of the market value of the building permit value for non-residential units.

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board collects a separate charge of \$505, in addition to any EDC.

"When we decided to go ahead with the EDC, there was a recognition things were changing," said Burlington trustee Diane Leblovic. "This is an additional tax, but it must be realized we do need schools for students. All school boards are scrambling in a crunch for dollars. We as a board are embarking on a massive renewal for this school system."

Gabriel DeSantis, president of the Hamilton-Halton Homebuilders Association, is highly disappointed with the supreme court's decision.

"As new housing prices will increase by approximately \$1,300 per unit, two groups are affected," said DeSantis, "people who are on the edge of affordability and the children of Ontario."

"We do want to pay our fair share," continued DeSantis, "but constantly putting costs on the backs of new homebuyers creates less affordable housing in Ontario."



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