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# The Independent & Free Press

## Weekend Edition

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### NEWS AT A GLANCE

#### Date to be set

John Michael Ogden, the 52-year old Georgetown man who was charged in relation to the death of an Acton man last month, is to be in court tomorrow (Monday) to set a trial date.

John Wilson, 25, of Greenore Cr. was killed in when he was struck by a car driven by Ogden on Guelph St. near Lakeview Ave. Saturday, October 19.

Ogden is facing charges of impaired driving causing death, impaired driving causing bodily harm, and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood.

A publication ban was imposed when Ogden was in court last Monday.

#### Blood needed

The Red Cross Toronto Blood Centre is in need of blood donors. All types are needed but supplies of group O positive blood are critical.

Georgetown-area donors are urged to attend the clinic at Holy Cross Church hall, 244 Maple Avenue, on Monday, 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Healthy individuals aged 17 to 70 are urged to bring valid identification.

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#### Christmas is coming

The poinsettia season has just begun and Ian and Jan Arnold of Arnold's Greenhouses in Norval admire one of the more than 4,000 plants they have in stock in their Winston Churchill Boulevard greenhouse. Since the

market only recently re-opened, their 15,000 square foot greenhouse is a sea of red, pink and white poinsettias, just waiting to enhance someone's home for the festive season. Photo by Ted Brown

## Cuts could hit French immersion

By TIM WHITNELL  
Special

A portion of the Halton Board of Education's French immersion program should be removed from the curriculum, says a staff document identifying several areas of possible cost-cutting.

The School Programs Renewal report, released last week by senior administrators, recommends the phasing out of late or extended French immersion—for students who begin in-depth learning in French in Grade 7—beginning in September 1997.

More than 500 students in Halton are enrolled in late French immersion between Grade 7 and OAC.

The report also made pronouncements on several other topics of interest to public school supporters.

Highlights of the 100-page report include a belief school communities should decide if they want their children to begin high school in Grade 7, special education costs should be reduced to 80 per cent of current levels within three years, and that user fees for non-core programs remain the domain of school-based administrators.

Kit Rankin, a superintendent of education services and chair of the sub-committees which produced the report, said the cutbacks or changes suggested were made to reach the 20 per cent reduction in costs targeted by the school board in last spring's budget.

Rankin said she was not happy about having to recommend the demise of late French immersion.

The superintendent said there just weren't many avenues of cost-cutting for her group to access.

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## Conflict of interest case rescheduled

The conflict of interest case against five Halton public school board trustees, including Acton/Esquesing's representative Ethel Gardiner, has been pushed back to next month.

The hearing, which was to have taken place last Thursday in Milton court, has been adjourned to Dec. 12.

Hugh Doull, head of the Taxpayers Coalition Burlington Inc. (TCB), said the reason for the delay was transcripts weren't ready for the lawyers.

Dave Houston, a TCB director, has petitioned the court to rule on the appropriateness of trustees voting on or influencing the vote on the school board's \$272 million budget last April.

Houston alleges five trustees, Gardiner, Burlington's Linda Glover and Joe Pavelka, Oakville's Penny Siebert and Milton's Flo Belford, should not have taken part in the budget vote as they have relationships with people employed by the Halton board or an outside board.

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