

Food drive  
under way

Page 9



Council delays  
fire hall sale

Page 2



Rep hockey  
roundup

Page 16

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# The Independent

## Weekend Edition & Free Press

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### NEWS AT A GLANCE

#### Youths charged

Police have charged four boys from Georgetown with break and enter and mischief in connection with a break-in and extensive vandalism done at the former Howard Wigglesworth School sometime between last Friday and Tuesday.

Police say entry was gained into the school through a broken window. Damage totaling about \$3,000 was done at the school. Door locks were broken, window screens were removed, paint was splashed around rooms, a pay phone was damaged and a pop machine was overturned. One youth is 13, two are 12, and one is 14. They are to appear in Milton court on January 3.

#### Join council

The Halton District Health Council has appointed Elly Tuitman of Acton and Linda Dawson of Georgetown to the council for a three-year term each.

Dawson, a dietitian, works as Director of Support Services at Georgetown Hospital. Tuitman, co-owner of Tuitman's Garden Centre, has been a community volunteer for years.

#### INSIDE

Dis 'n Data.....	5
Editorial.....	6
A Ted Bit.....	7
Entertainment.....	14
Sports.....	16-19



#### Lighting the way

Hundreds of people assembled at Georgetown District Memorial Hospital Wednesday night to celebrate the lighting of the giant tree in front of the hospital. Among those taking part in the celebrations were (from left) Jessica Cook, Heather James, Kristi Smith, Becca Smith and Amanda Jennings, as they dressed in their own festive costumes for the occasion. The evening featured carols and seasonal treats as well as cups of hot chocolate to ward off the night's chill.

Photo by Ted Brown

## MPPs, trustees discuss reform

By TIM WHITNELL  
Special

Halton Board of Education's chair said a meeting with the region's four Tory MPPs provided no new information and gave trustees no reason to think they can't proceed with their plans for renewal.

"I didn't really see anything that would say you can't close schools now or would prevent the reduction of administration staff," Linda Glover said of the discussion she, other trustees and senior board administration had Monday.

The two-hour, *tete-a-tete* at the board offices in Burlington had been requested in late November by MPPs Ted Chudleigh, Cam Jackson, Terence Young and Gary Carr.

The gathering was prompted by statements from some trustees that the board has not been given ample direction about the kind and size of educational reforms coming to Ontario and their impact on students and school boards.

Glover said rumors about the changes have circulated for months.

"I know I didn't get any clear direction. They're going to have (funding) cuts," she said of the education ministry, "and they're looking at the Who Does What Panel on the direction of school boards. It's all the things we've heard before."

In a Thursday press release, Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh said the first piece of legislation will be introduced next week, and subsequent bills will be introduced early in 1997. A special winter session, called the Who Does What session, will be held to focus on the restructuring of municipalities and school boards, with all changes in place for 1998.

Commenting on the meeting with the school board, Chudleigh said the MPPs stressed the importance of making decisions that will complement the provincial reforms and that it was important to co-operate with municipalities in the future use and maintenance of schools.

Glover said one thing both sides agreed on during the meeting was to meet on a more regular basis.

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