Halton Hills happenings



Members of the Bridge Town Line Watch Group braved the rain to clean up their road. Pitching in to clean up the road were back (from left) Helen Lomax, Carmen Stoehr, Gerda Potzel, Mike Schultz, Jennifer Schultz, front (from left) Curtis Stoehr and Vivienne Stoehr. The neighborhood watch group was formed six months ago and has 24 member

households on the 4th Line of Halton Hills.

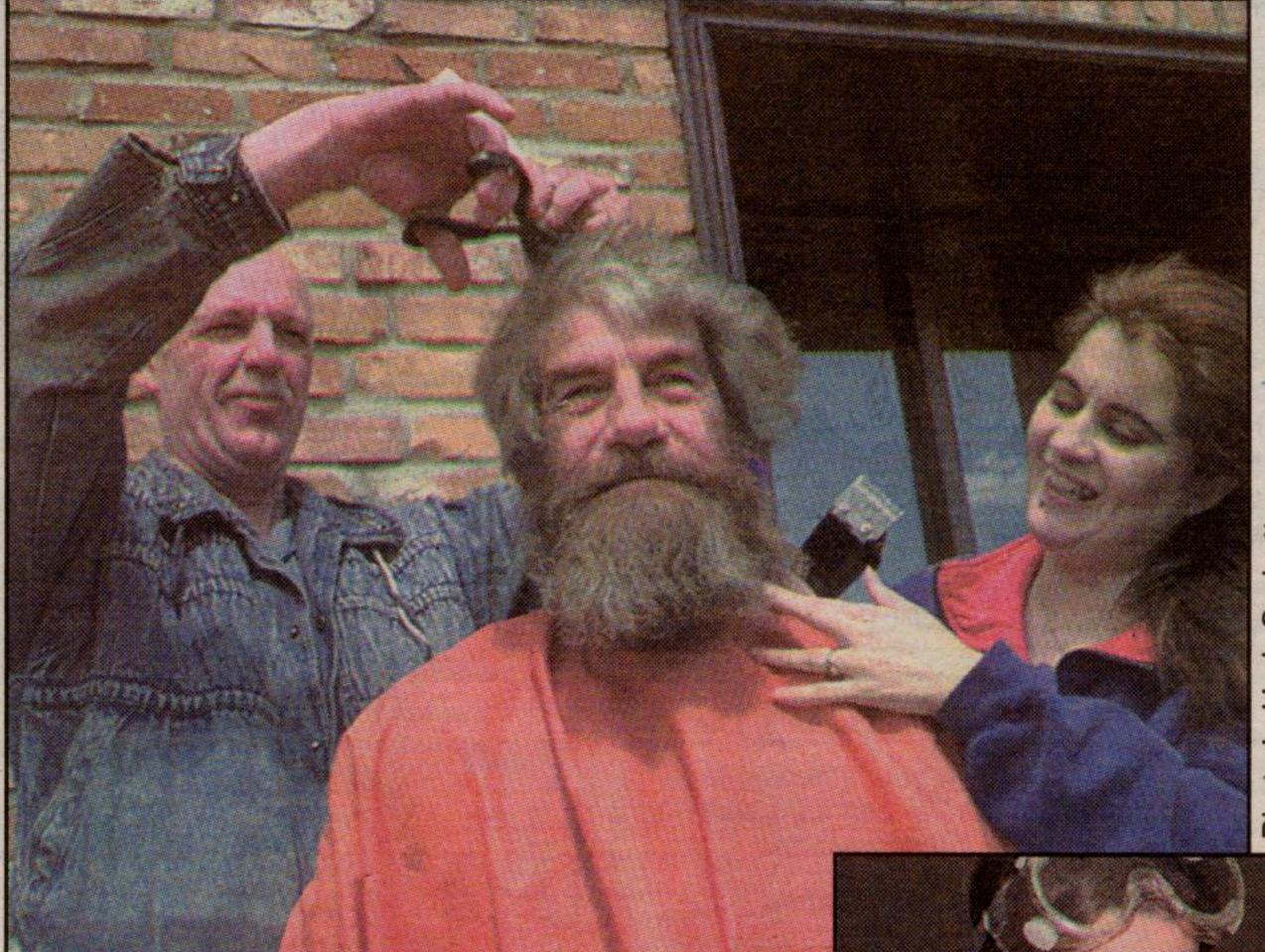


Photo by Herb Garbutt

Monica Ash of the Acton Kinettes collects money from a motorist at the corner of Mill and Main St. in Acton on Saturday. The Kinettes were collecting money for the new Acton Arena.

Robert Millard won't be having any hair raising experiences for a while. Millard welcomed anyone who donated money to take the scissors to his hair or beard. Millard raised \$400 for the George Dragon's entry in the Heart & Stroke Foundation's entry for the Big Bike Ride on May 31. Garth Demenint, left, took the first snips while Tania Wallis was there to finish the job with the clippers.



oto by Ted Brown

Joseph Gibbons School students Stacy Felton and Ashley Donaldson, both 10, were joined by staff and volunteers as the group constructed 33 bird houses for bluebirds, and 16 bird feeders to sell as a fund-raising program to aid the Mountsberg Bird Release program.

Blue Box program jeopardized by falling prices and funding cuts

By BRAD REAUME Special

here is a battle brewing over beverage containers, and the future of the Blue Box is at stake.

The first skirmish was fought last Wednesday at Halton Region's planning and public works committee. Committee members agreed to re-open debate at a future session before making a decision on the fate of the Blue Box program.

Funding cuts to Blue Box programs, coupled with poor markets for most Blue Box materials are forcing municipalities to reconsider their recycling programs.

Options include adding more materials or reducing what is currently included in Blue Box pickup.

Soft drink companies support

the Blue Box program through the use of high value aluminum cans because they do not want to be involved in a paid deposit system. Brewers back their own paid deposit system and are fearful of legislation which

would force them to abandon it, because it would expose them to major competition from American breweries.

Toseph Hruska, representing the soft drink industry, told committee members to protect the recycling program.

"We have to think in terms of the total system,"
he said. "There are various options available but if you was

he said. "There are various options available but if you want to reduce the impact of products on the solid waste stream then support recycling. Everyone wants to remove materials from the system but they don't know

the impacts."

The soft drink industry recently committed to using aluminum cans, which have a high recycle value, the recovery of which, they argue, allows municipalities to pay for the

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-Arthur Potts, The Beer Store

recycling program.

But according to Barry Malmsten, Halton's chief administrative officer, the soft drink industry uses aluminum cans to help prop up the Blue Box program. He said they want the

Blue Box program because it shifts responsibility for recycling soft drink containers onto the backs of municipal taxpayers.

"Aluminum is the driver in your program," Hruska told committee members. "If you take aluminum out through the

aluminum out through the institution of deposits, then your recycling program is unsustainable."

Arthur Potts, speaking on behalf of The Beer Store, said the deposit system is by far the more efficient. Ontario brewers recover 98 per cent of all bottles and cans sold, he said. Committee heard estimates of less than a 50 per cent recovery through

Blue Box programs.

"The best support we can offer to the Blue Box is that we are not in it," said Potts. "Additional costs to municipalities would be between \$50-\$60 million."

"Our consumers are paying

the cost of our waste;" said Potts.
"The Blue Box is paid for by all taxpayers, who are paying for the waste management of other companies."

Potts warned against legislating all beverages into aluminum cans, saying that proposal would destroy the beer industry in Canada by flooding it with American made canned beer.

Malmsten said with recycling programs in the United States several large breweries have been able to cut out local bottlers, and boost profits. The breweries no longer need to collect returned bottles which, like Coors, allows them to operate from one location.

Potts suggested the committee take the time to hear from other industry players in order to have all the information before considering their future position on the Blue Box program.



Hetcher's Shoes Hetcher's Shoe