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NEWS AT A GLANCE

New hours for police station

■ Effective today (Sunday), the Halton Regional Police, 11 Division, located at 217 Guelph St., Georgetown, will be extending the station's public access hours to the following: Sunday through Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 12 midnight; Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Thursday to Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.

For police assistance during hours other than the above times, a direct access phone line is located at the front entrance to the building.

Trailers stolen

■ Halton Police are investigating the theft of two flatbed trailers loaded with lumber from a parking lot at Trafalgar Rd. and Steeles Ave. that occurred sometime between Friday and Tuesday.

The value of the missing trailers and lumber is valued at about \$95,000 in total.

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Exotic friend

Jamie Boks-Taramina and Madison Banks found a new friend at the exotic petting zoo as they stopped by to pat an iguana at the Harvest Festival in Downtown Georgetown last weekend. The annual festival brought the farmer's market season to a close.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

'No one is really happy'

Public secondary teachers okay new contract

Halton's public high schools will likely change some teachers and timetables in mid-semester following a contract settlement this week.

The new two-year contract was ratified Tuesday by the Halton District School Board's secondary unit, which has 950 members. The board approved the settlement last week.

"No one is really happy with the agreement. It's not something I, as a trustee, wanted or the teachers wanted," said Debbie Marklew, the board's chair of secondary negotiations. "But we had to think of the kids and work within the government model for a solution."

(The models are strict provincial

requirements for school boards funding. Boards can no longer raise money through the mill rate).

Under the new contract, teachers will go without salary increases. But instead of handling seven classes per year, their workload will be returned to six (three classes per semester).

Now schools must quickly reorganize timetables and staffing, since about half their teachers have four classes this semester. Deadline for the alterations is Nov. 1.

"There will definitely be changes in who teaches and when a course is offered," said Marklew. "There will be minor changes in timetables. We're not changing courses, though."

She expects some complaints from teachers and students, especially about teachers being switched in mid-semester.

"We're going to have to monitor it and we're going to have to revisit it," said Marklew about the reorganizations. "There are bound to be negative impacts."

Extra staff will be hired to relieve existing teachers currently handling four classes. Laid-off teachers on the recall list will be contacted.

The new contract requires teachers to perform an extra 125 minutes of assigned duties every five days. This meets provincial legislation requiring teachers to work an extra 25 minutes per day.

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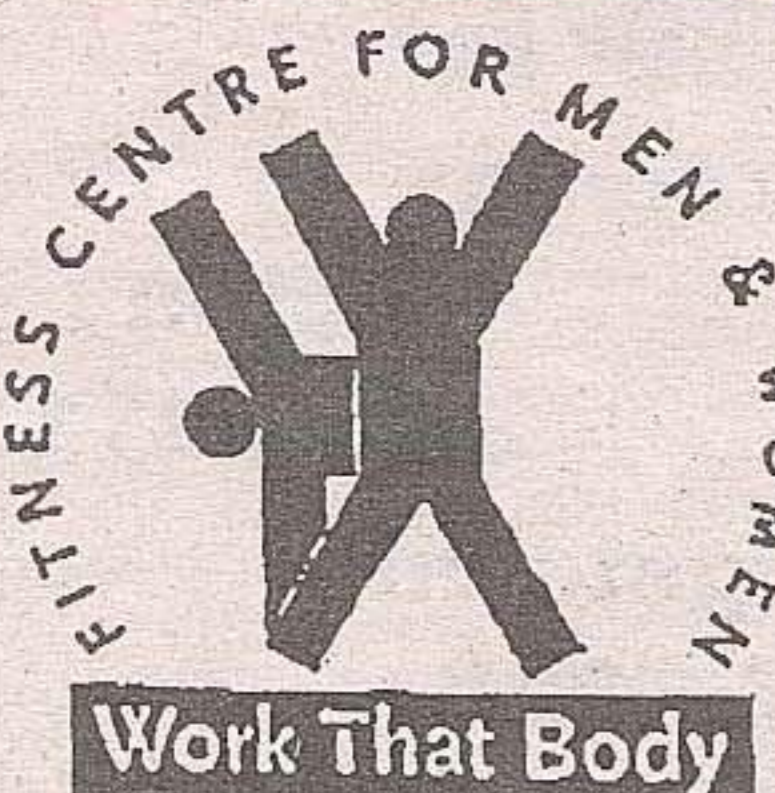
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