

Acton
carnival

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Home, Lawn
& Garden

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GEORGETOWN



Ready to face
the world

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NEWS AT A GLANCE

Home gutted

■ A fire in a McDonald Blvd., Acton home Thursday morning resulted in about \$130,000 worth of damage.

A spokesperson for Halton Hills Fire Department said a small fire was discovered in the furnace/laundry room by the homeowner about 7:18 a.m. She closed the door, went upstairs and called 911, then left the house with her children.

The fire, which is believed to have started in or around the furnace, spread throughout the home.

Officer struck

■ Halton Police report that while a police officer was walking through the cell area at the Georgetown police station Friday evening he was struck by a man in custody for a liquor violation. The officer wasn't injured.

Charged with assault and breach of probation is Loran Vickery, 34, of Main St. Georgetown.

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Up, up, and...away?



With the sun and wind making a grand entrance Easter Monday, local children enjoyed the holiday by taking part in many activities and, at Cedarvale Park, flying a kite was one of them. When Michael Fleming, 7, had a little difficulty getting his kite airborne, mom Sandra got into the act and through teamwork, they managed to momentarily re-enact the Wright Brothers' feat, albeit not as smoothly.

Photos by Ted Brown

Board wants province to pay portable cleanup costs

The Halton District School Board will seek provincial relief for costs of portable cleanups, which have escalated to \$4.1 million.

Education director Dusty Papke said he will continue discussing the issue with neighboring school boards for a possible joint lobbying effort.

"I have already been speaking with other directors," he said. "The Peel board is facing a whopping bill and you're looking at phenomenal costs across the GTA (Greater Toronto Area)."

Cleanups were required after a potentially toxic fungus called stachybotrys

atra was found in board portables in 1997. It may cause or amplify allergic reactions or asthma in some children and possibly induce flu-like symptoms like nausea and headaches.

Papke said he'll also be speaking very soon about the matter with education ministry officials.

"We have to believe that the government needs to deal with this across the province of Ontario," noted Papke. "We've had no direction from the province on portable mould remediation, re-inspection or financing."

Papke said the \$4.1 million total announced recently is the final cost for

Halton's public board, which cleaned up (remediated) 131 portables.

Board staff originally estimated the cleanup would cost \$1.75 million and revised that forecast to \$2.7 million last December.

Papke said unlike a regular capital project, workers had to do cleanups on a component-by-component basis, discovering the problems as they went along.

"It was a different kind of project. It was not finite," he said. "We didn't know what we'd find or have to do."

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