

Teens survive  
Oshawa crash

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Home, Lawn  
& Garden

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## NEWS AT A GLANCE

### Candidates meet

■ The provincial election candidates vying for the riding of Halton will take part in an all-candidates meeting Monday, May 31 at the John Elliott Theatre beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting is being hosted by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and the University Women's Club.

The meeting is the fourth and final one scheduled. The first was held last night (Tuesday) in Oakville while two others are set for Milton May 26 and May 27.

### Items stolen

■ A car dolly, valued at \$500, was taken from the rear of a Trafalgar Rd. house sometime last Sunday night or Monday morning Halton Police report.

A JVC car stereo valued at \$1,500 was stolen sometime Thursday, May 6 or Friday, May 7 from a 1991 Hyundai parked at a Mill St. Acton home.

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## A bird's eye view

Andrew Bailey, 12, of Terra Cotta engaged this young bald eagle in a staring match Saturday at the annual Norval Riverfest. Andrew, who thought the birds of prey display was "cool", was one of hundreds of people who took in the annual event. For more photos see page 7.

Photo by Christine Smyth

## Proposal to reopen budget is voted down

Halton Hills budget committee rejected a proposal to reopen the 1999 operating budget to help pay for both a new recreational facility and an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) case.

During discussions of the 2000-2008 preliminary capital forecast Monday night, town treasurer Ed DeSousa provided budget committee (all council members) with options to pay for a new recreational complex— estimated at \$8.2 million and to pay for the hiring of consultants to defend the town's case at an OMB case involving Main St. lands beside Hungry Hollow ravine.

If the town decides to build a new recreational complex— and that's still not a certainty— DeSousa provided three funding options to pay the annual \$260,000 debt payment resulting from the anticipated \$1.9 million in tax-supported debentures over 10 years. These options are:

- To reopen the 1999 operating budget. Already homeowners are expecting a 2.5 per cent or \$68 tax decrease on their overall 1999 tax bills, but this option calls for using part of that decrease— .5 per cent or \$15— to dedicate to the recreational complex. That means homeowners would see only a \$53 dollar decline on their bills.

- Deal with the effect on the annual tax rate at the time the debt is issued— when the complex is actually approved, and then is debentured. The impact on the tax rate in 2000 and beyond (depending on interest rates) may be significant, DeSousa warned.

- Rely on private-public partnerships in conjunction with community and private contributions. So far, there's been little response in that area, said manager of facilities Paul Stover.

In a close vote, 5-4, committee selected option

See COUNCILLORS, pg. 3

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