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# The Independent & Free Press

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## NEWS AT A GLANCE

### Sheep killed

■ Four sheep were killed and several others were injured while they were in the barn at a Fifth Line Halton Hills farm Thursday. Some of the the injured sheep had to be killed. When the property owners discovered the dead and injured sheep they also found two dogs, one a German Shepherd and the other a Husky-type. The dogs were cornered and one was shot and injured but they both escaped. The dog owners have been identified. Police say it's unknown if the dogs were responsible for the incident. Police and Halton Hills Animal Control are investigating.

### Buckle up

■ Throughout October Halton Police stopped 6,610 vehicles throughout the region to check that drivers and passengers were buckled in. As a result 162 seat belt charges were laid and 65 warnings were issued. The compliance rate was 97.5 per cent.

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## A visitor from the North Pole

Jolly old St. Nick, aka Santa Claus, paid a quick visit to Georgetown this past weekend. He was the guest of honor in Georgetown Lions Santa Claus Parade held on Saturday. For those who missed him, don't worry he'll be back to star in Acton's parade this Saturday. See photos and story on pg. 3.

Photo by Yvonne Gaynor

## MPP demands school board action—or else

By HERB GARBUTT  
Staff Writer

Ted Chudleigh blasted the Halton District School Board and gave it a failing grade in management.

The Halton MPP called the board's trustees irresponsible on Monday, and said the board should be dissolved and run by the province on an interim basis until its accommodation problem is sorted out.

Chudleigh said the board

has done little in response to last month's Education Improvement Commission's (EIC) report on the board's operation.

"The vast majority of school boards have sufficient funds," Chudleigh said. "The funding formula is working extremely well. Some boards manage well, others might get a C grade others a D. I'm afraid we're saddled with a board that gets an F."

Board chair and Halton Hills Trustee Ethel Gardiner said she agrees with the main point



MPP TED CHUDLEIGH

made by the EIC and Chudleigh—that the board must close schools in order to build new schools in growth areas. "It's true, as a corporation we have decided not to close schools," Gardiner said, "but as an individual trustee, I have voted to close schools and I do recognize the need to have new schools."

The board's vote was split (5-5) on whether to close two schools and amalgamate two others last spring. It recently voted against closing Burlington's Fairfield School, which has only 69 students in a school able to accommodate 287.

Chudleigh said he would like to alter the funding formula so that schools such as Fairfield must be closed.

"If there's a need for a new school, I'd say take the option away from the board," the MPP said.

See GARDINER, pg. 9



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