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The Independent

Weekend Edition & Free Press

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NEWS AT A GLANCE

Man charged after girl assaulted

Halton Police charged a Georgetown man with sexual interference and sexual assault after a 4-year-old Georgetown girl was sexually assaulted Tuesday. Police say the incident occurred at about 5:15 p.m. at the man's home. Charged is Craig Shandelmeier, 26, of Langstone Cr.

Driver charged

Police charged a 24-year-old man with impaired driving and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood after he was stopped on 25 Sideroad at Townline Rd. in Acton Saturday night. Charged is Thomas Hawkins of Wingham.

Closed Monday

The Independent & Free Press office will be closed Monday, Sept. 4 so staff can enjoy the Labour Day holiday. The office will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 5 at 8:30 a.m.

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Head over wheels
David Ellis performs some high-flying stunts at the Canadian National Exhibition. The 18-year-old from Georgetown is among the top-ranked rollerbladers in the world. See story, Sports & Leisure page 1.
Photo by Graham Paine

Teachers vow: 'It will not be business as usual'

The storm watch may be ending, but there's still a mixed forecast ahead for Halton's public secondary schools. Teachers' union leaders say they will not strike anytime soon, but warn extracurricular activities may suffer.

"In September, we will fulfill our commitment to parents and students and will be teaching on the first day of school," said Larry Chud. "But it will not be business as usual. There will be fewer opportunities for remedial help and there will not be the same range of extracurricular activities."

Teachers will not be directed to avoid volunteering after school, said Chud, who's president of Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation District 20 - Halton.

"This is not because teachers are boycotting. It's because there are fewer teachers," he said. "This is a natural consequence of Bill 74. We can't keep doing more with less."

Chud said the teachers will meet the controversial legislation's requirement of averaging four hours, 10 minutes of classroom time per day.

He says this will increase annual class time to 6.5 periods, plus .17 periods of leading teacher advisory groups for students. Ontario teachers have traditionally taught six out of eight periods.

The increased daily workload is not just 20 extra minutes of class time, said the union leader.

"You don't just walk in cold," he said. "There's preparation and evaluation time, plus phoning home."

Meeting with parents and preparing for the new secondary curriculum also add to teacher workloads, said Chud. "The time has to come from somewhere."

The province's classroom/instructional time requirement was first established in 1998, but now fewer activities are counted as instructional time. Chud cited covering off for other teachers as one example.

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