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8 pages inside

**NEW HOMES BUYERS GUIDE**  
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# The Independent

## Weekend Edition & Free Press

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**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

**\$60,000 blaze**  
A fire on the second floor of a Greenore Cr., Acton home caused about \$60,000 in heat and smoke damage Saturday afternoon. A spokesperson for the Halton Hills Fire Department said when the owners arrived home they noticed the door was extremely hot and were hit by a wall of heat when they opened the door. When firefighters arrived the fire, which had started in the master bedroom, had self-extinguished due to a lack of oxygen. The cause of the fire is undetermined and under investigation by the fire department.

**Clocks fall back**  
Residents are reminded to turn their clocks back one hour tomorrow (Saturday) night before going to bed as we revert to Eastern Standard Time (EST) at 2 a.m. Sunday.

**INSIDE**

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**LITTLE TERRORS**



It seems some kids departed from the regular spooks, ghosts and goblins instead opting to be Harry Potter, Spider-Man and Simba of Lion King fame as members of 5th Georgetown Beavers met for their annual Halloween party at St. Francis of Assisi School Tuesday night. Taking the identity of the wizard Harry Potter was Alexander Wharram, 5, Spider-Man was Brendan Craig, 4, and Simba was Joel Albany, also 5. For more Halloween hauntings see page 4 for two local ghost stories.  
Photo by Ted Brown

**Region staffers offer tips on how to treat well water**

Well water—how to conserve, test and treat it—was the hot topic at a meeting in Ballinafad Wednesday night that drew more than 100 area residents. Halton Region staff members, hydrogeologist Steve Holysh, public health inspector Rod Thompson and water efficiency co-ordinator Cassandra Bach, provided information to rural well owners at the meeting organized by Hickory Falls Ratepayers and Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER). Thompson said since the water crisis in Walkerton, Halton Region has received an abundance of calls about water. He explained in a private well the water is considered safe if consistent test results show a coliform count of five or less and no E. coli. He said the main reason many well owners are finding high coliform or E. coli counts in their water is because wells are not properly maintained. "Many of the wells are in poor condition," said Thompson. "There is no maintenance whatsoever, they are just neglected." He said both drilled and dug wells are prone to contamination and urged well owners to inspect their wells. He said they need to be clean, free of cracks and holes, dry and water tight. He recommended hiring a licensed well contractor for repairs. He said holes or cracks on a well's lid can result in bird droppings being washed into the well and bugs getting in. "Ensure the ground is sloped away from the well," said Thompson. He said the well should be in a location where there is no ponding, eave-strough discharge and at least 30 metres away from septic tanks and manure piles. Thompson also explained how to disinfect a well if the water is unsafe due to bacteria. He said a guide available through the region will instruct the well owner how much liquid bleach to add to the well.

See WATER, pg. 5

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