

New Homes
4-page section



Real estate
20 pages
inside



Acton bounced
Sports/Leisure Pg. 1

MATURING MORTGAGE,
PURCHASING?
5 YEAR FIXED TERM

7.0 %

"Let me negotiate your next institutional mortgage at no cost to you (O.A.C.)"

BOB WOODS
Mortgage Specialist

FIRST PROVINCIAL
MORTGAGE CORP.

(905) 877-1490

The Independent & Free Press

Weekend Edition

50¢ (+ GST) Serving Halton Hills Friday, November 24, 2000 56 Pages 18,500 copies

NEWS AT A GLANCE

Business entered

■ Halton Police are investigating the theft of cash from a safe and a laptop computer, totaling \$4,000, from TSS Transnet on Steeles Ave. sometime between Friday and Monday. There was no sign of forced entry.

Car damaged

■ About \$1,500 damage was caused to a 1997 Chrysler when someone hit the bumper while it was parked at Georgetown Marketplace Friday evening.

Items stolen

■ A camera, drill, and tool box, valued at \$1,100, were taken from an unlocked Mill St. garage and unlocked vehicle sometime last Monday night or Tuesday morning.

Window smashed

■ The driver's side window of a 1999 Acura was smashed when it was left in a Park Ave. parking lot for a short time Wednesday night. Damage is estimated at \$150.

INSIDE

Editorial.....6
A Ted Bit.....7
Sports and Leisure
Sports.....1, 2, 5
Entertainment.....6



Gazing into a new future

Longtime Acton Ward 1 Councillor Norm Elliott will have plenty of time to pursue his beloved pastime of astronomy now that he is retiring after an 18-year political career. The veteran politician reflected on his career in an interview with *The Independent & Free Press*' Lisa Tallyn. Elliott's final time behind a council desk is Monday when the last meeting for the 1997-2000 council is held. For story see page 5.

Photo by Ted Brown

Property value assessments soar

Most residents to see 10-20 per cent increase

The majority of Halton Hills property owners will see a 10 to 20 per cent increase in property values when their new tax assessment notices arrive in the mail.

The Halton-Peel office of the Ontario Property Assessment Corporation (OPAC) began sending out notices on Tuesday, and assessment commissioner

Cathy Farr said her office has already been receiving double the number of telephone calls questioning the notices.

OPAC administers a uniform, province-wide system based on current value assessment, which is used by municipalities to calculate property taxes. The assessments are based on a property's estimated selling price, its neighbourhood and general market conditions.

Every property in Ontario has been reassessed using June 30, 1999 values. The previous assessments were based on

June 30, 1996 values.

The breakdown for Halton Hills residential property owners follows:

- 67 per cent of ratepayers will see a 10 to 20 per cent increase
- 17 per cent will see an increase up to 10 per cent
- 16 per cent will see an increase of more than 20 per cent

Farr cautions the increases will not necessarily translate into a higher tax bill because the tax rate is reduced to offset the increase in the values. Taxes will

See HIKE, pg. 2

PHYSIOLOGIST • KINESIOLOGISTS • CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINERS • SPINNING CLASSES • BABYSITTING • ROWERS

One Month Christmas Membership

A Christmas Gift Idea!
\$49.99 plus GST

Must be purchased by Noon Dec. 24
Must be redeemed by Jan 8/00



PUT FITNESS UNDER THE TREE THIS CHRISTMAS



Work that Body
232 Guelph Street
Georgetown, Ontario
L7G 4B1

Phone: 905-877-0771
Fax: 905-877-8169

TREADMILLS • 13,000 SQ. FT. • FREE WEIGHTS • WEIGHT MACHINES • LIFECYCLES • COMPUTERIZED FITNESS ASSESSMENTS

• AEROBICS

• STEP CLASSES