

# The Independent

## Weekend Edition & Free Press

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### Carnivale capers for kids

The three-day Georgetown Alliance Church Carnivale was held this past weekend and there was plenty of fun things for the smaller set to take part in. (Above) Jessica Woudstra, 9, of Georgetown gets ready to launch a water balloon while (right) Liam Dahl, also of Georgetown, slides down the Carnivale's version of the Titanic. Almost all events, including food, were free of charge at the annual bash which featured a garden party for seniors, a play, and a Sunday worship session.



Photos by Trish England

### Local groups want town to stop using 'unsafe' pesticides

A coalition of Halton Hills environmental groups and individuals have formed a grassroots organization to persuade the town to stop spraying pesticides on public lands.

HOPE (Healthy Options for People and the Environment) came armed to Monday night's council meeting with a 468-signature petition and a resolution that the town implement in February 2002 a new lawn care program eliminating all use of chemical products.

However, council will instead wait until Recreation and Parks Department director Bryan Shynal prepares a report reviewing the use of pesticides for council debate by January 2002. He said a Halton Region committee is also studying the matter, and he's waiting for their conclusions, expected by the end of this year.

"The intent of the exercise is to have a discussion around the issues, both pro and con, and to establish uniform best-practice guidelines based on prudent avoidance principles," he said of the Halton-wide initiative.

Shynal said the bulk of the town pesticide use is Par 3 herbicide used to kill broadleaf weeds like dandelions. It preserves the esthetics and quality of the grass. It's practical, he said, because it creates a uniform turf quality whereas a weedy field wears faster, causing undulations which could create a safety hazard for athletes.

HOPE member Mike Kelly, the father of a young boy with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, will not allow his son to play on public playgrounds to reduce further risk to him.

"Our son, and others like him, have been robbed of the opportunity of playing on public lands, playing fields, swing sets, etc., because of the established policy of spraying these areas with Par 3 and other known carcinogens. Is it fair to deprive him, and others like him, the privilege of playing in these public places?"

"Do we spray or do we kill kids?" said Kelly, who demanded an immediate ban on town use of pesticides and a ban for homeowners' use within two years. "Our children are relying on you guys."

See HOPE, pg. 4



Pumpkin Soup  
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