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The cat's meow

One might wonder if Georgetown Chrysler Jeep owner Paul Auty is now stocking Jaguars at his Guelph Street dealership after he had an up-close and personal interview with Keisha, a female spotted jaguar which is part of illusionist Claude Haggerty's show to be presented at John Elliott Theatre September 27. The highlight of Haggerty's show is when he makes a full grown tiger disappear. The show, sponsored by Auty's dealership, in partnership with the downtown merchants and Re/Max agent Kathleen Walsh, is part of the downtown Georgetown Halloween magic event. Haggerty will perform three shows at 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for children and \$7.50 for adults and are available from the John Elliott Theatre Box Office at 905-877-3700.

Photo by Ted Brown

Auditor clears school board officials

An independent forensic investigation into alleged "misrepresentation and abuse of bylaws" by several Halton District School Board trustees, including chair and Halton Hills Trustee Ethel Gardiner, has cleared the trustees innocent of any wrongdoing.

The investigation, along with the resignations of some board members, including Gardiner, was requested by Burlington Trustee Michael Ellis.

See story page 10.

Water shortage 'is coming', says CVC

In an attempt to avoid a water supply crisis within 20 years, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is calling on provincial and municipal governments to develop an Ontario-wide water policy strategy now.

Rae Horst, CVC general manager, told Halton Hills council at Monday's meeting, the amount of water individuals use today won't be available sometime in the future.

"We're not probably going to have sufficient quantity," she said, adding that without quantity, there won't be good water quality.

"It's not going to happen next year, or the year after, but it's coming. Either we're ready for it and able to act against it or else we're going to lose it. Once it happens, it could be irreversible."

"We used to think water was unlimited here... but in Southern Ontario it's no longer unlimited."

The Credit Valley watershed follows the Credit River and its tributaries, stretching from Mississauga on Lake Ontario to Orangeville

in the north, and includes a large portion of the Town of Halton Hills within its boundaries.

Rae pointed out this watershed is facing 40 per cent urbanization in the future— it currently sits at 21 per cent. Studies have shown that between 15 and 30 per cent, rivers and streams are seriously stressed and at 40 per cent, they are irreversibly affected— some sections in Brampton, Mississauga and Orangeville are already impaired.

Population in the watershed has risen from 100,000 in the 1960s to more than 560,000 in 2001. That's predicted to rise by another 75 per cent by 2021.

As well, the CVC estimates that the province— which controls water taking permits— has allocated about 60 per cent of the water available (this doesn't include withdrawals of less than 50,000 litres per day which don't require a permit).

See WATER, pg. 5



What's cookin'
...pg. S/L 5

INSIDE

Editorial.....	6
Ted Brown.....	7
Health Care.....	15
Sports.....	S/L 1-3
Entertainment	S/L 6



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