

The Independent & Free Press

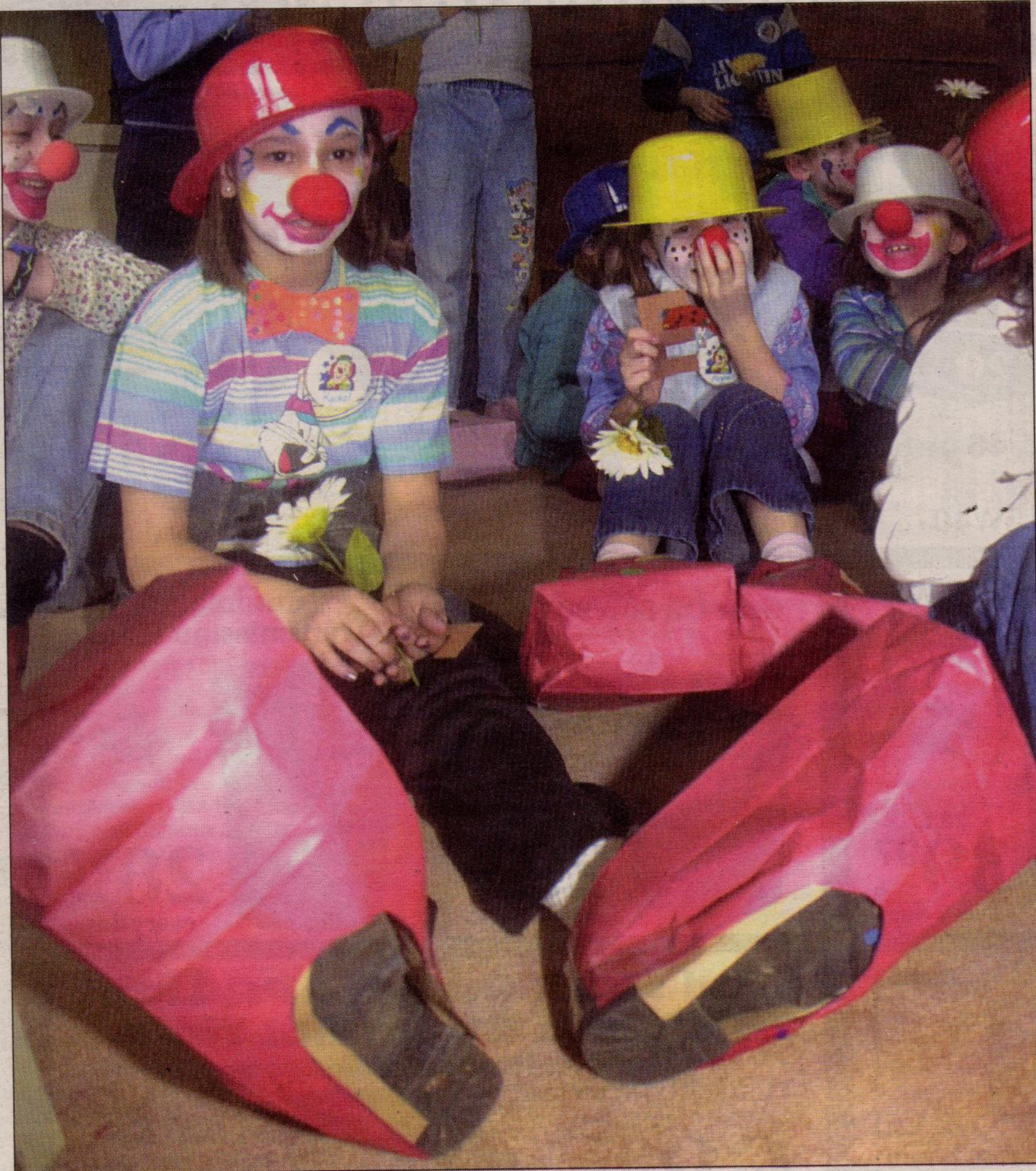
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Proposed smoking bylaw draws ire of local bar owners

Claiming a potential 30-40 per cent loss in business, a contingent representing Halton Hills' hospitality industry opposed a proposed smoking bylaw unveiled at council Monday night.

"The owners/operators of bars and restaurants here in Georgetown are in strong opposition to what the (town) committee has come up with for a bylaw," said Scott Roach, speaking on behalf of the Food and Beverage Association of Halton Hills.

His colleague, George Markou of the McGibbon Hotel was more forthright.

"Our industry is telling you to stay out of our bars and restaurants. ...You are risking a heavy decimation of the hospitality industry in Halton Hills."

The Stakeholders Smoking Control Review Committee, a composite of town staff and community members, meeting since September presented its recommendations to council.

Chief Administrative Officer Steve Andrews described the new bylaw as more restrictive, but fair, with one rule for all buildings— regardless of whether they're public bars or private clubs, factories or public facilities.

See PROPOSED, pg. 5

Man charged in hair theft

A Mississauga man has been charged in connection with the disappearance of two 40-inch braids from a hair-cutting charity event in Halton Hills last week.

Angie Akers, of Georgetown, who shaved her head to raise money for The Hospital for Sick Children and planned to donate the hair to make a wig for a child undergoing cancer treatments, discovered the hair was missing shortly after. The event had been videotaped by COGECO Cable and when Akers reviewed the tape she saw a man with his hand on the bag of braids.

Akers contacted Halton Police and the man's photo from the video with a request to contact police appeared in *The Independent & Free Press*, a Toronto daily newspaper, and other media outlets.

Tuesday Akers told *The Independent & Free Press* she was "relieved" and "glad a charge has been laid."

Detective Sgt. Don Cousens said police received a number of tips in regards to the identity of the man in the photo.

Police say on Monday the man in the video walked into the Halton Police station in Oakville and said police were looking to speak to him regarding the incident.

Charged with theft under \$5,000 is Walter Gorbachew, 48, of Steen Dr. He is to appear in Milton court on April 3. Cousens said the hair has not been recovered.

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Send in the clowns

Rachel Meilleur, 9, takes a load off her feet after a day of hard work making a clown costume while Meghan Fielding (right) adjusts her nose. The two took part in the Halton Hills Library's Clown for a Day activities at the Georgetown branch. The library also held a carnival day for kids last week as part of its March Break activities.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

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