

# The Independent & Free Press

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## Spring has sprung...at 29 Celsius

Since the weather seemed to jump directly from winter to summer, skipping spring altogether, local Georgetown District High School sun worshippers enjoyed taking in a few rays at Cedarvale Park during their lunch period Tuesday. The Grade 10 students included Anna Burnett (on the ground), Janelle Farley (on the bench), Emily Hope and Melissa Hotham (reclining) and (back, from left) Paula Taylor, Natasha Hansen and Lindsay Nicholls.

Photo by Ted Brown

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## Independent named Ontario's top community newspaper

The Independent & Free Press has been named the best newspaper in its class in Ontario.

Managing Editor John McGhie, on behalf of the newspaper, accepted the General Excellence Award at the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's (OCNA) awards banquet Saturday night in Toronto. The newspaper won first place in Class 5 (circulation between 12,500-24,999).

This is the second time in three years the newspaper has been named best in its class in Ontario. It also won the award in 1999.

The judge commented, "The Independent & Free Press is a readable paper; attractive front page; community happenings presented well—enjoyable read."

The Independent & Free Press outscored 12 other newspaper including second and third-place winners, Stoney Creek News and Simcoe Tuesday Times-Reformer.

High marks went to the front page, community news, presentation, photography, ad content and design, classifieds, and local features.

"In this competition, this is always a tremendous achievement. I am very proud of the newspaper and of the staff," said Publisher Ken Nugent. "They worked hard to make it happen. We're delighted that we're recognized by this and to be judged by our peers against other newspapers with similar circulation, is quite something."

"As always, we continue to try and improve our newspaper so we can produce the best community newspaper we can. That's what Acton and Georgetown deserves."

The Independent & Free Press is now qualified to compete against the best newspapers in the country at the Canadian Community Newspaper Association convention in Halifax in July.

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