

The Independent & Free Press

Wednesday, May 1, 2002 52 Pages Vol. 125 No. 4

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Councillor Ron Chatten and Communities in Bloom volunteer Jane Beebe team up to fill a garbage bag during Saturday's town-wide cleanup blitz. A total of eight tonnes of garbage was collected. For more photos see page 9.

Photo by Shawn McAlpine

Hundreds pitch in for one-day cleanup blitz

Hundreds of citizens collected eight tonnes of litter on the first Clean Up Halton Hills Day, Saturday.

More than 30 groups, families and neighbourhoods joined together to pick up litter around the town—the first step in beautifying the community for the Communities in Bloom competition later this year. It took town crews two days, instead of the expected one, to pick up the bags left by the roadsides. On Monday alone, crews picked up at least 500 bags.

"It was a tremendous success," said chief organizer, Councillor Jane Fogal. "It

went even better than my expectations. I was just amazed, as I drove around, to find people out all over the place cleaning up."

Fogal, who stopped at various locations, said people told her it was great things were getting picked up, and that they were "in awe" of how much trash there was littering the community. Some people expected to fill a bag, but ended up filling five.

"It became a real community event," she said, adding it was easy to get people to buy into the day. "And we do have fun when we do these things together,

it's not so much a chore as an event."

Fogal is appreciative of "everybody who got on board, pitched in and made our town look beautiful."

While Clean Up Halton Hills Day will definitely be held again next year, Fogal said there will be mini-cleanups planned again this year as well. The Communities in Bloom committee will focus on maintaining Guelph St. in Georgetown throughout the year, and once the Communities in Bloom judging route is set, those areas will be done again.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

Hospital chair says local obstetrics unit will remain unchanged

No changes are planned for obstetrical services at Georgetown Hospital, according to a press statement from the William Osler Health Centre board chair.

"Any changes in the levels of services provided to the communities must be approved by the board of directors," said Dr. Farooque Dawood, William Osler board chair. "The board has not received, nor does it anticipate receiving a recommendation to approve changes to the obstetrical services at Georgetown Hospital Campus."

A rumour had been circulating at the hospital that a decision had been made to close the obstetrics unit, and a letter was sent to *The Independent & Free Press* from hospital medical staff reaffirming their commitment to the delivery of quality health care close to home—specifically full obstetrical and surgical services.

See HOSPITAL, pg. 3

Home, Lawn and Garden ... 16 page section



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