



Truck rollover

The driver of this tractor trailer cab received minor injuries in a single-vehicle accident Tuesday morning. Halton Police say the driver was heading eastbound on Steeles Ave. in the heavy rain when he lost control of the truck, left the road and rolled onto the front yard of the St. Stephen's Church property. The man, whose name was not released by police, was taken to Milton District Hospital. The truck was damaged, the lawn at the church was torn up and a mailbox and light post were knocked down. Police are still investigating the accident.

Photo by Ted Brown

Police blotter

Jukebox thieves sought after break-in

Halton Police are investigating the theft of a \$2,000 jukebox from the former Pro Shooters on Guelph St.

Police say the locks had been changed on the building after the business had been abandoned recently. Some time between Tuesday and Thursday the fire door was forced open and the jukebox taken.

A 1995 Ford Bronco, valued at \$15,000, was stolen from an Armstrong Ave. busi-

ness sometime late Thursday or early Friday. The keys were not in the vehicle.

A Halton Hills man is facing charges in connection with the theft of T-shirts and a poster from Nashville North early Sunday.

Police say security officers found a man outside of the bar with six shirts and a poster, valued at \$60, that hadn't been paid for.

Charged with theft under \$5,000 and possession of stolen property is Luke Hager, 18, of 15 Sideroad.

Public board considers busing, maintenance cuts to balance budget

Halton District School Board trustees are considering cutting busing for several programs, including French Immersion, as they struggle to pass a balanced budget for 2002-03.

Cutting busing for French Immersion students would save the board \$410,000. Other programs under consideration for busing cuts include those for gifted children (\$162,000) and English as a Second Language (\$168,500). Other proposed transit cuts defined as "policy exceptions" amount to \$233,900.

"If they do this, the program (French Immersion) will be gone in three years," said Don Vrooman, chair of the school council at Pine Grove School in Oakville.

Vrooman predicts many parents won't be able to drive their kids to school, which will reduce the interest in French

Immersion. While most existing parents are fully committed, he said, new students would be less likely to enrol in Grade 1, "and when enrolment drops in any school, then the program is cancelled."

The bus cuts were just part of \$4.2 million in spending reductions under consideration by trustees. The numbers were discussed during last week's board meeting.

With estimated revenue of \$285.4 million, trustees received a staff report from Carla Kisko, board business superintendent, with suggestions about where the cuts could be made. They include:

- Eliminating the purchase of class-



ETHEL GARDINER

room computers, and staying with existing machines for another year, to save \$565,000

- Slashing \$1.3 million from daily maintenance. It could mean not replacing lights that burn out, fans that don't work, and also trying to repair aging equipment that would ordinarily be replaced

- Cutting 26 full-time new educational assistants from the proposed budget, to save \$695,000

The debate included a discussion of whether the province might suddenly announce additional funding to help cash-strapped boards from making painful cuts. Board trustees have another budget session set for tonight (Wednesday), and will likely avoid making final cuts until a board meeting set for June 19.

Board chair and Halton Hills Trustee Ethel Gardiner said that the transporta-

tion cuts have been discussed in the past, but she still expects a strong public backlash.

Gardiner hopes more money will come from the province soon to help avoid making the cuts.

"We still have a ways to go before we make any final determination, this is still preliminary talk."

Board director Dusty Papke told trustees he believes the provincial government will soon recognize the need for an improved funding formula to replace the existing model from 1997.

"The government has already admitted it needs to be fixed, but I don't know at this point whether there will be additional dollars this year ... but there are no timelines and that's the problem," he said.

—By Paul Mitchison, special

Guelph St. to get improved look thanks to \$1M provincial grant

Improvements will be made to Guelph St. thanks to more than \$1 million in provincial funding for the town.

The Ministry of Transportation announced the \$1,068,346 funding allocation last week for a Connecting Link project in Georgetown.

"This is an important project for the people of Halton Hills," said Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh. "This grant will help pay for updates to local infrastructure and improve transportation access through Georgetown."

Ron Goddard, the town's manager of capital works, said the money is welcomed and will be used for a variety of projects on Guelph St.—to complete the work being done between Maple and Main streets (completed next

week), to replace asphalt from Henry St. to Moore Park (completed end of July), for resurfacing of Guelph St. between Mountainview Rd. and Hall Rd., interconnecting traffic signals between Mill St. and Armstrong Ave. (to be done this fall) and to purchase property in the Guelph St. and Mountainview Rd. area needed to improve that intersection (to be done this fall).

Goddard said once this work is done Hwy. 7 will have been improved from Mill St. in Acton through to Hall Rd.

Connecting Link projects are sections of municipal roads that link two ends of a provincial highway. Projects are paid for 90 per cent by the province, and 10 per cent by the local municipality.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Pride picnic set for Saturday

Halton Pride Committee will hold its third annual Halton Pride Picnic this Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. at Sheridan College's Trafalgar Rd. campus in Oakville.

Organizer Marcus Logan, who invited all members of regional council at a recent meeting, described the Pride Picnic as a family-oriented event with activities for all ages. He said the location was changed from Bronte Creek to accommodate transportation concerns and park users.

The picnic includes clowns, magic acts, jugglers, fortune tellers, barbecue, raffles, and four live bands.

A feature of this year's picnic is the inaugural meeting of the Halton LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Transgendered) Parent-ing Group.

"We identified a service gap in Halton for LGBT parents and parent wannabes at last year's Pride Picnic, so we thought we would start a group," said Logan who will be attending with his partner of 14 years. "We want to introduce LGBT parents and parent wannabes to each other in the hopes of forming a group that can share experiences, and to build a network of LGBT parents in Halton region."

For more information visit www.haltonpride.org.

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