

# The Independent

## Weekend

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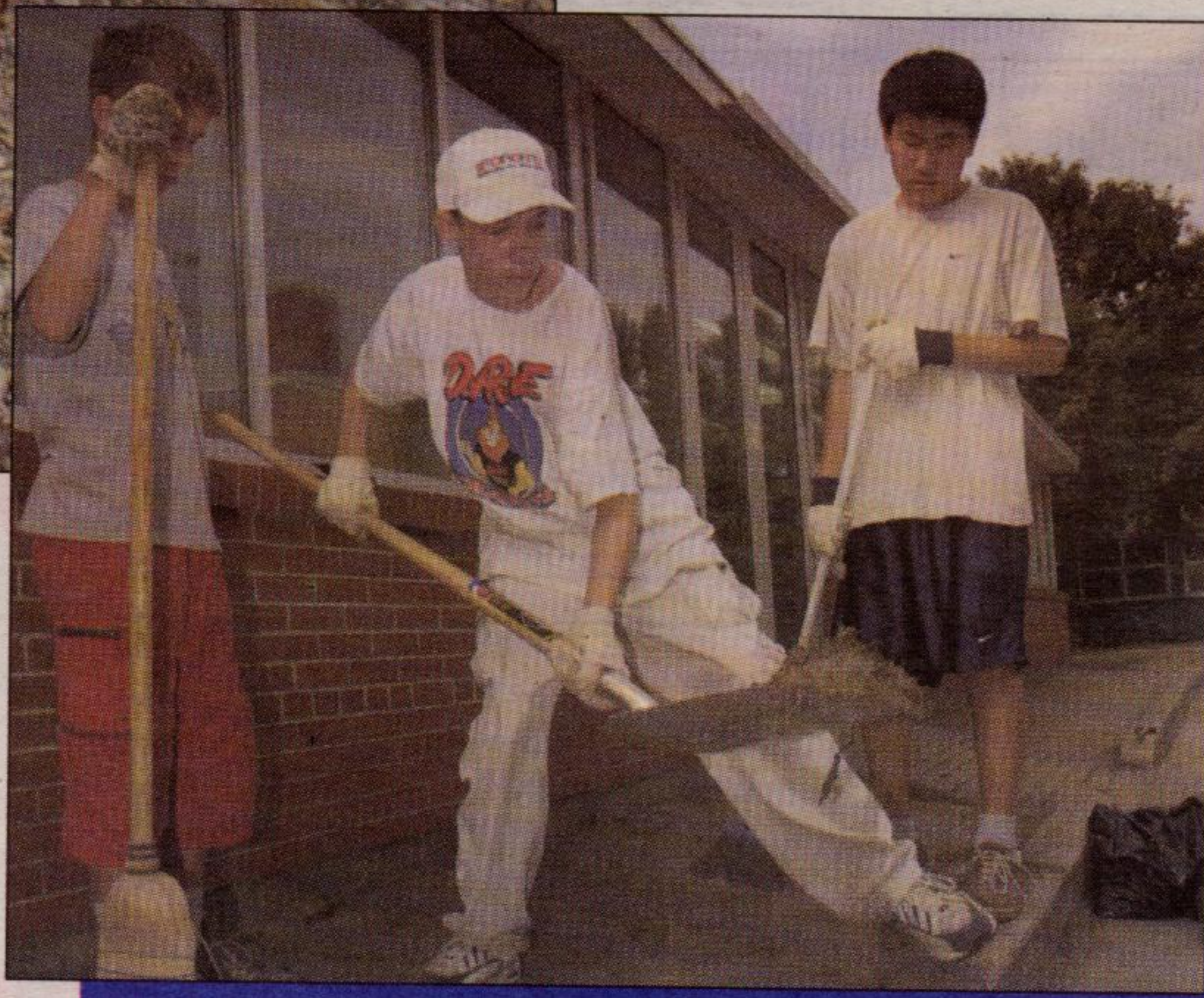
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### Teens in action

Grade 12 student Amanda Petryschuk pulls weeds from around the foundation at Georgetown District High School during Saturday's cleanup while Justin Lee-Jenkins (shoveling), Sean Perry (left) and Ben Wang remove weeds from the front sidewalk. Approximately 60 students, teachers and parents pulled weeds and cleaned up garbage around the school as part of the school council's beautification program.

Photos by Herb Garbutt



### Mosquito season almost over

## No plans to spray for West Nile Virus

Halton Region is looking to retain the services of a mosquito control company, but pesticide spraying isn't on the table yet.

"This is really a result of the intensive surveillance that we were doing. There are no, I emphasize, no plans to spray at this time," Halton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal told the region's health and social services committee Tuesday.

"There certainly are cases of illness that we would like to get a handle on in Halton."

A Burlington resident has been confirmed as the first human case of West Nile virus in Canada this year, though there is speculation he contracted the virus while in the United States.

Three other probable cases of the virus have been reported in Oakville, but have yet to be confirmed. A 70-year-old Mississauga man, who died this week, is the first Canadian confirmed to have died from the virus.

Committee members approved the retention of Pestalto Environmental Products Inc., the sole mosquito control company in the province, in the event pesticide

spraying becomes necessary.

Prior to spraying, a special regional council meeting would be called to seek council approval.

Nosal stressed spraying hasn't been done and likely won't be done this year.

"There will be some serious discussions over the winter about larvaciding next summer," he added.

Though the bulk of the mosquito season is over, Nosal is still seeking public assistance in monitoring dead birds, particularly crows, found in the area. The birds won't be collected by the health department, but it's important to keep records of occurrences, he said.

"The lab in Guelph, at the veterinary college, does not want any more from places that have already had at least two positive birds," he said. "We clearly know that it's in Halton, so there is no advantage in sending any more birds for testing."

If found, dead birds are to be double bagged and placed in the garbage.

Regional council has yet to formally address the issue of retaining Pestalto, but is expected to do so Wednesday.

—By Richard Vivian, special

Look for our Fall Car Care section inside!



### INSIDE

Editorial.....	6
A Ted Bit.....	7
Town Hall News.....	11,18
Sports.....	13-15
Entertainment.....	21
Classifieds.....	24-26



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