



## A grand senior

The Georgetown Senior Centre welcomed Frank Jamieson as its 1000th member last week. The centre opened in 1995 with 550 members and has had more than 30,000 visits so far this year.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

# Town pleased with performance in Communities in Bloom event

The Town of Halton Hills fared well in the 2003 National Communities in Bloom (CIB) competition and the CIB committee is now looking ahead to next year.

In the second year of its participation in competition, Halton Hills received four blooms out of five, 810 points out of 1,000 and a honourable mention for community involvement at the 2002 national competition. The previous year, Halton Hills was first in the provincial competition among towns of similar size.

"I think this is marvelous for our first year in the national awards program," said CIB committee member Dawn Falls. "I think across Canada for a community of our size, that's awesome."

The judges commended the town's community pride, environmental awareness, tree dedication program, site plan process and park, garden and BIA landscaping. However, the judges made several suggestions:

- Purchase a steam eradicator to enhance the streetscape
- Set up a heritage tree list and catalogue to add to Halton Hills heritage preservation efforts
- Implement a documented tree maintenance policy
- Commercial and industrial sector could show some more interest and effort

The town spent \$50,000 on the competition and contributed 545 hours of staff time. Halton Hills businesses and service clubs contributed \$16,250 in donated materials or services and more than 40 volunteers donated their time.

The CIB steering committee is now requesting \$50,000 for next year's competition, but council will not decide that until budget time in January.

"It's a vision for Halton Hills, and I don't think we can't afford not to be part of that vision," said Falls. "It is worth it."

"It's not just about flowers," she said,

with a nod to some detractors of the program. "It's about a whole community coming together and how we learned to showcase what we are. Being part of this national program is like free advertising for Halton Hills, and I personally think we have to grab it and run with it."

Mayor Kathy Gastle agreed, adding that even the federal government has recognized the program's value and has kicked in funding grants for involved municipalities.



WARREN HARRIS

Town manager of parks and cemeteries Warren Harris outlined in a staff report the benefits of the program: provincial and national exposure and recognition, marketing and tourism potential, increased volunteerism, increased community spirit, promotion of environmental stewardship, and increased involvement by private landowners improving the quality of the town.

The CIB steering committee has made a few suggestions for next year:

- Publish a timetable of community events
- Publish a brochure outlining program information
- Pursue ways to acknowledge participants
- Ensure there are enough staff to work on the program
- Create permanent CIB signage for planting beds and storefront windows
- Install additional town banners
- Install gateway sign at Hwys. 25 and 7 in Acton (requires CN approval)
- Seek new ways to watering flowerbeds
- Install additional flag poles
- Utilize more high school volunteers
- Promote more participation from children and the arts community
- Participate in the revision of the sign bylaw
- Get a Halton Region rep to assist with waste subcommittee.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

## Don't be a victim of Internet fraud

Halton Regional Police Service recommends Internet shoppers follow some guidelines to ensure they don't become victims of fraud this holiday season.

Police recommend:

- Pay with a major credit card. Most cards have zero liability which means that if unauthorized transactions appear on your credit card, you don't have to pay. This also means that you have to keep track of your transactions. If you discover an unauthorized transaction in excess of thirty days after the charge you may be held liable.

- Always check the retailer's references. Only buy from Web sites with a secure encrypted server to ensure that your payment information is not available to anyone else.
- Shop at a site that displays

VeriSign. These sites are audited regularly to prove that they are maintaining their security.

- Always read the customer policy and understand the policy regarding returns and refunds of merchandise.

- Keep a paper trail saved on your computer or print out a copy of the transaction for your records.

- Consider using e-wallets such as Microsoft Passport, Bank of Montreal Mastercard Wallet, Royal Bank Royal Pass etc. E-wallets safeguard your information but are no safer than dealing directly with a retailer that uses their own secure server.

- You may also consider checking with your credit card provider. They may offer a password for protection on your credit card. This is recommended especially for e-mail shopping.

Ray Johnson & Associates Inc. (The Co-operators) announces the Halloween Colouring Contest Winners



**Amanda Ellsworth**  
Age: 6 yrs



**Chelsey McFarland**  
Age: 9 yrs



**Jordyn Echlin**  
Age: 5 yrs

**Congratulations to the winners of our Halloween Colouring Contest.**



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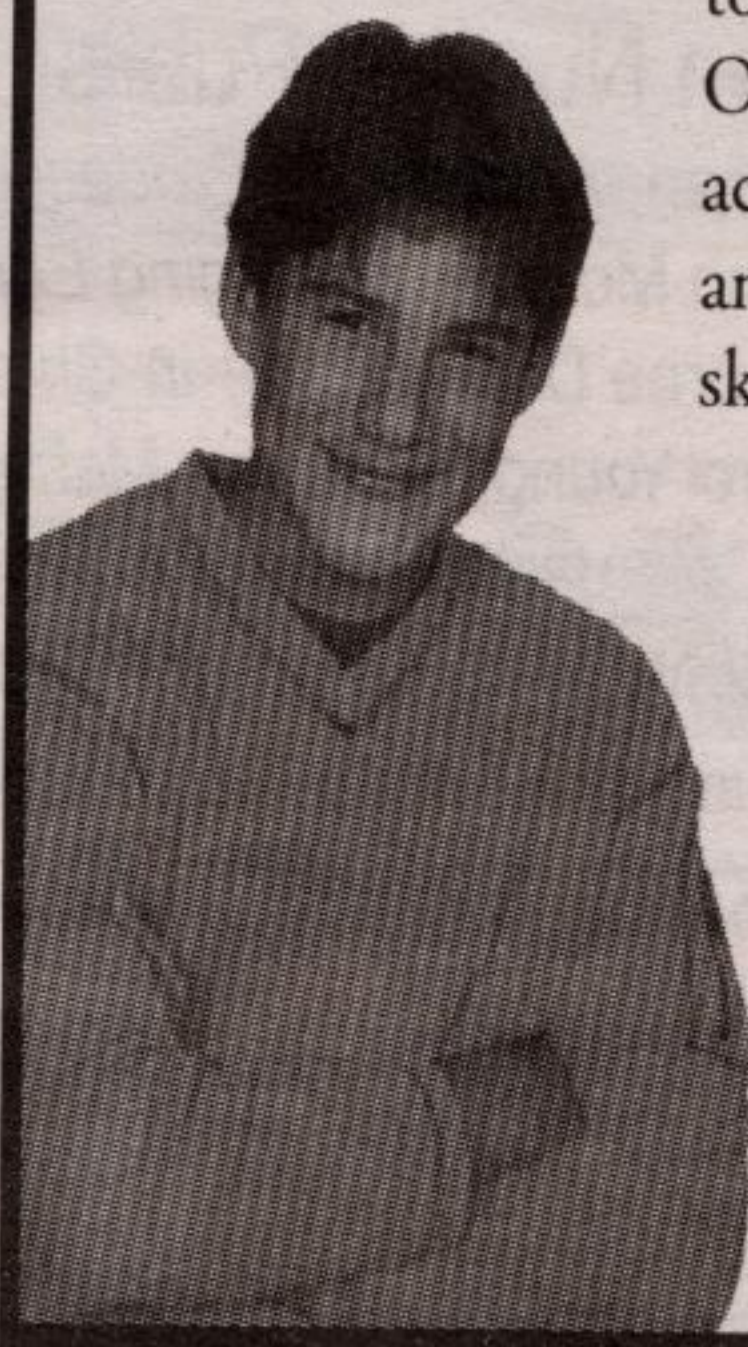
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