

Dedicated volunteers brave poor weather for fall Clean Up Day

Despite cold, wet, windy weather, a small group of dedicated volunteers picked up litter in the first-ever fall Clean Up Day in Halton Hills on Saturday.

"We did get a lot of garbage, but there's more out there to be done," said Jane Fogal, chair of the Anti-Litter Task Force.

Compared to the spring cleanup, when 21 tonnes of garbage was collected, Saturday's haul was light, according to the town's public works department. An exact amount had not been tallied before press time.

Fogal said the task force has decided to set dates for next year's Clean Up Days early— Saturday, May 1, Saturday, July 24 and Saturday, Oct. 2— so that community groups can plan them in their 2004 schedule.

One person who doesn't need a special day to clean up garbage is Georgetown resident Ron Greidanus, music director at St. George's Church. Although he spent five-and-a-half hours picking up garbage in the ravine behind Carpet One, Greidanus makes a weekly habit of picking up litter.

"I don't own a car, and I bike and walk all the time, so I see the litter (up close) all the time," Greidanus said. He started picking up the garbage along the roads and trails he travels regularly, noting there are a lot of "invisible creatures like me" that like to keep their town clean.

During Saturday's cleanup of the ravine, he picked up a wide variety of items including kitchen taps, utensils, 40-50-year-old pop bottles, clothes and the omnipresent coffee cups. He even rolled a tire out the ravine that he discovered someone had rolled back into the ravine later that day. The next day, walking through the ravine to church, he spotted new litter— coffee cups.



Ron Greidanus, music director at St. George's Church, shows off a portion of his haul during Saturday's fall Clean Up Day.

Photo by Shawn McAlpine

And not more than 48 hours later after Saturday's Clean Up Day, Greidanus, on his bike riding from McDonald's to Maple Ave., counted the number of McDonald's cups lying on one side of the road— 16. "That's just McDonald's cups," he said. "I didn't count the pop cans and coffee cups now there too."

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

Multiple votes being cast for favoured candidates

Chamber admits mayoral poll inaccurate

An opinion poll on the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Web site that asks residents which mayoral candidate they plan to support shouldn't be considered accurate, says a Chamber spokesperson, as some people are voting for their favourite candidate numerous times.

"I would not use this as a scientific measure or an accurate measure by any means," said Chamber general manager Sue Walker. "It's entertainment."

Walker believes the people who are casting multiple votes at the Web site located at www.haltonhillschamber.on.ca are affiliated with different candidate's camps. She added she is tracking their Internet Provider Numbers (IPN).

She said one person recently spent 30 minutes casting approximately 60 votes for one candidate.

"There are a couple of people who want to make sure their favourite stays in the lead. They have far too much time on their hands in my opinion," said Walker.

Walker said the poll is set up so only one vote can be cast per computer but some "computer savvy" people have figured out a way around that.

Walker said people have been casting multiple



SUE WALKER

votes in support of candidates Rick Bonnette, John Day and Kathy Gastle.

At press time the poll results showed Day in the lead with 46.3 per cent of the votes, Bonnette with 39.79 per cent, Gastle with nine per cent and Marilyn Serjeantson and the Not Voting category tied at 2.42 per cent.

As of Tuesday morning, Walker said 275 votes had come into the poll, however she believes only 88 of those are legitimate.

She said the number of votes received for Bonnette is 115, but she believes only 29 of them are legitimate, the number of votes received for Day is 133, but the accurate number is 28, and the number of votes for Gastle is 26 but according to Walker, should only be 17. She believes the seven votes received each for candidate Marilyn Serjeantson and in the Not Voting category in the poll are accurate.

Walker said likely closer to the election she plans to have the Web Master put in the legitimate numbers but figures they won't stay that way for long.

The Chamber has been polling people on its Web site since April, with a different question each month. Previous polls focused on the provincial election, the town's sign bylaw and aggressive driving in Halton Hills.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Police blotter

Cabby involved in fatal crash charged

Halton Regional Police have charged a Milton woman in connection with the accident that claimed the life of nine-year-old Alex Bonehill of Georgetown in May.

Bonehill was the passenger in the back seat of a Milton taxi-cab on May 14 that was involved in a collision with a tractor trailer on Ninth Line.

Charged with careless driving is Lisa Broatch, 37, of Robert St.

...

A Mississauga man is facing charges after a vehicle struck a hydro pole on Guelph St. at Main St. Saturday morning. Police report the driver of the vehicle was not seriously injured in the incident.

Charged with impaired driving and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood is Mukesh Bedi, 41, of Avonwick Ave.

...

A Mississauga man has been charged in connection with a single-car accident at Steeles Ave. and Tenth Line Thursday evening. Police were called because a vehicle had gone in the ditch at that intersection, and when they arrived police report the driver, who had left the scene on foot, was found a short distance away.

Charged with impaired driving, fail to remain and refuse to provide a breath sample is George Hannah, 53, of Foxwood Ave.

Town fares bloomin' well

Halton Hills received four blooms out of five at the national Communities in Bloom (CIB) awards presentation held in Stratford on the weekend.

That placed the town second overall in Ontario. Willow Park Ecology Centre also received a special commendation for environmental awareness. The town overall received top marks for its environmental efforts, Mayor Kathy Gastle announced at Monday's council meeting.

Communities in Bloom will host a fund-raiser Wednesday, Oct. 29 at the Halton Place Horse and Country in Halton Hills to raise money for Kelowna, British Columbia. That city, a CIB national winner, lost more than 250 homes, 20 million trees and heritage train trestles to a forest fire this summer.

Great wines still available

Time is running out for *Independent & Free Press* readers to purchase award-winning Ontario wines at great prices.

The *Independent & Free Press Wine Connection* closes at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9.

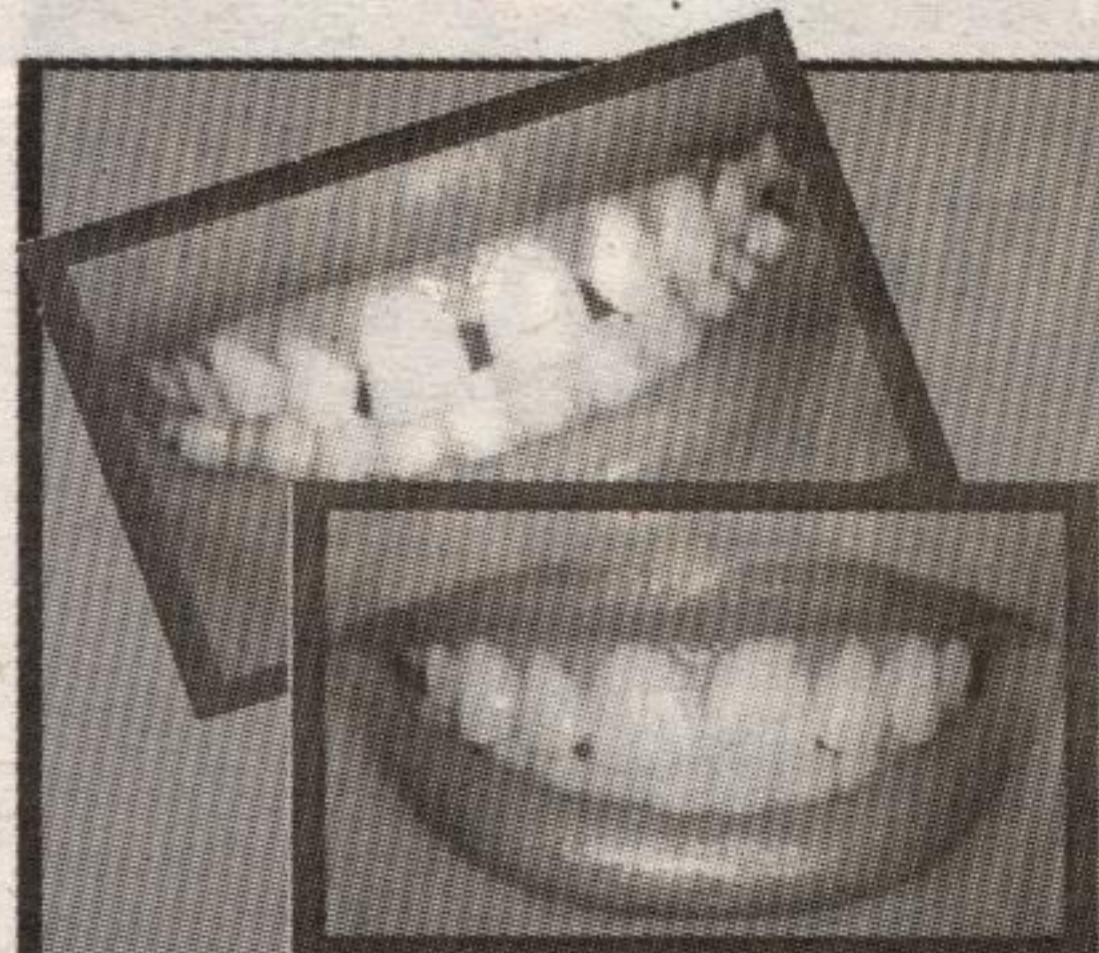
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Call centre hours are 8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily during the promotion.

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For more information see the advertisement on page 4 in today's edition.



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