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Soggy weekend for Bang-O-Rama

Mother Nature wasn't very kind to organizers of the 21st annual Optimist Club of Georgetown Bang-O-Rama. The weekend-long event at Georgetown Fairgrounds saw reduced crowds as rainy weather prevailed all weekend. The Monday car show, also was affected as far fewer auto owners as expected turned up. However, there were some hearty souls like Kaitlyn Inglis, 6 (right) and her sister Sarah, 2, from Georgetown who found fun at the midway's fishing game.



Photo by Trish Wilkinson

Region officials join in hospital fight

Continued from pg. 1

growing population with many young families who benefit greatly from having an obstetrics unit in their own community."

"The decision to redirect obstetrics patients outside of their municipality is not in keeping with our mandate to protect our community's high quality of life - which is supported in large part, through the accessibility and availability of many critical services."

She said the residents of Halton Hills "need to be able to access obstetrics care in the same community in which they live."

Also, at the Region's Health and Social Services Committee meeting Tuesday the committee endorsed the Town of Halton Hills council resolution asking William Osler Health Centre to reconsider its decision, and that Regional Council express its concern to the Health minister that the decision was made "without appropriate stakeholder and community consultation, and without communicating the short and long-term impacts this decision will have on other health services in Halton."

The committee also recommended the resolution be forwarded to Halton-Peel District Health Council and local municipalities for support.

Regional council is expected to consider the recommendation at its

June 2 council meeting.

Halton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Robert Nosal, has also written Smitherman.

He said Smitherman has repeatedly called for a "systems approach in health and health care."

"Such an approach involves appropriate stakeholder and community consultation and transparent decision making, especially when public funds are involved," he said.

He said the residents of Georgetown await answers to:

- What will be the impact on the health of Halton residents, specifically those in Georgetown, as a result of these change?
- What are the short and long-term impacts of the board decision on other health services at the Georgetown site and in the community?

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Rabid bat found in Georgetown

Two children are undergoing treatment for rabies after a rabid bat was found in Georgetown.

The bat, which was found last Thursday on private property (Halton Region Health Department did not release the location) and positive rabies test results were returned to the Region Friday.

While it is unknown if the bat actually bit the children, a spokesperson for the health department said the children are being treated as a precaution.

All Halton residents are urged to avoid contact with bats and be cautious around them. Anyone who suspects they have come in contact with a bat should promptly report the incident to the health department.

Last year five bats in Halton tested positive for rabies.

The Health Department reports that bat rabies is fatal if a person is infected and not treated before symptoms start. Symptoms can take up to one year to appear.

Bats can be found in barns, caves and occasionally in homes. Infected animals carry the virus in their saliva and pass it to other animals or people through bites and contaminated wounds. Each incident of possible exposure, even if there wasn't a bite, should be reported to the health department for investigation.

The rabies virus can infect any mammal, and those most commonly infected are bats, skunks, foxes and raccoons.

For more information about rabies, or to report a suspected rabid animal or exposure call Halton Region Health Department at 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866) or visit www.region.halton.on.ca/health.

Police blotter

Investigation determines sex assault didn't happen

Halton Regional Police have determined that the reported sexual assault by two males of a 16-year-old girl at Joseph Gibbons Park last Monday (May 17) did not occur.

Police are investigating the theft of a 2000 Chrysler Cirrus, valued at \$16,000, from the driveway of a Rosset Valley Court home late Sunday or early Monday. The car was stolen after keys to the Cirrus and money were taken from a 1991 Chevrolet pickup truck also parked in the driveway.

An Acton man is facing charges after police found a man in a vehicle on Churchill Rd. early Saturday.

Charged with care and control and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood is Gary Robinson, 38, of Churchill Rd.

Police were called to Nashville North on Guelph St. Friday evening because someone was throwing firecrackers at the bar, causing property damage and endangering patrons. When police arrived they found a man in the area with firecrackers.

Charged with mischief is Craig Matthew, 39, of Lisa St., Georgetown.

Police report a rash of break and enters into vehicles in Georgetown over the weekend.

Late Sunday or early Monday a cell phone was taken from a 1988 GMC pickup truck on Rosset Valley Court, and a 1997 Chevy Blazer at another home on the street was also entered but nothing was taken.

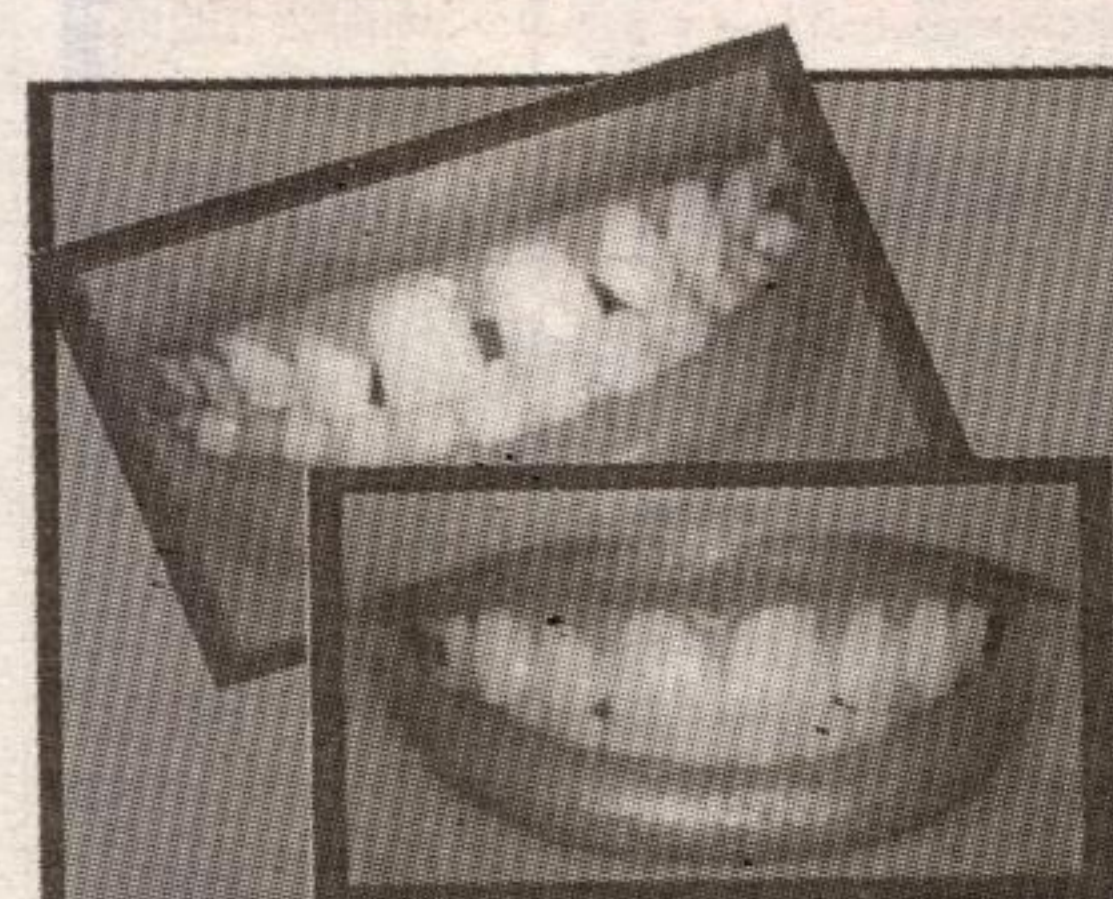
At approximately the same time a lottery ticket was taken from a 1988 GMC Sierra pickup truck at a Corey Circle home, and wallets were removed from a 1999 Ford Windstar van on Marilyn Cr. and a 2000 Ford van. Money and keys were also taken from a 1991 Chevrolet pickup truck on Rosset Valley Cr.

Approximately \$300 worth of clothing was taken from a Main St. Georgetown laundromat between 3 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday. The owner of the clothes was doing her laundry, left for a short time, and when she returned two loads of clothes were gone. Police are looking for a woman with dyed blond hair, approximately 40 years-old, who was wearing jeans, high heels and driving a black Lincoln in connection with the incident.

Police responded to an alarm at Sacre Coeur School early Sunday and found a window had been broken, but no entry had been gained. Officers searched the area but the culprit(s) couldn't be found.


Approximately \$1,200 worth of equipment including a golf club washer, 20 golf ball baskets, three golf bag stands, and 2,000 golf balls, were taken from Halton Hills Golf Academy on Five Sideroad late Friday or early Saturday.

The windshield, rear and driver's side windows were smashed in a Ford Focus parked at an Argyll Rd. home early Friday. Damage is estimated at \$1,200.



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