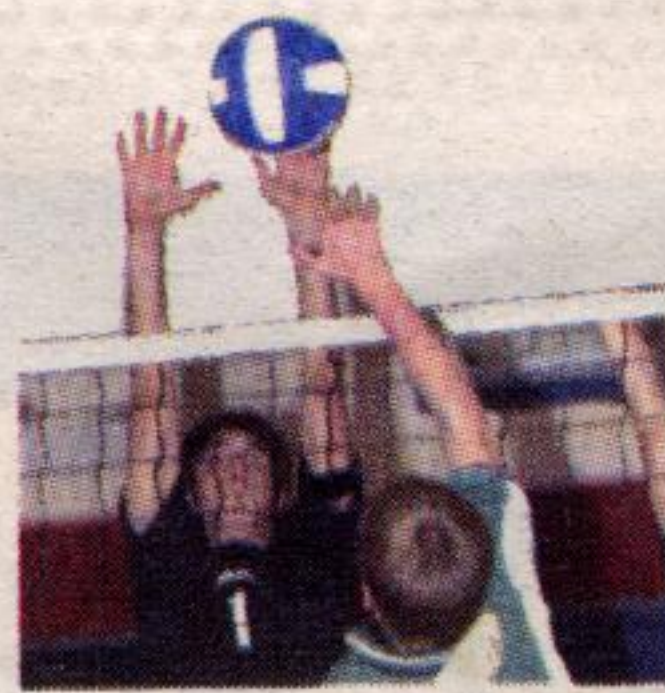




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## A cut above the rest

The Willow Park Ecology Centre hosted its second annual Falling Leaves Festival at its Norval home this past weekend and invited residents to take part in numerous events. Cathy Turner of Georgetown showed off her surgical skills in carving a pumpkin while others participated in events such as rock painting and toad house painting.



Photo by Yves Desjardins

## Will launch zero tolerance policy next month

# Town to get tough on bad behaviour in rinks, parks

To combat the growing problem of vandalism and abusive behaviour at local arenas, pools and parks, the Town of Halton Hills will launch a zero tolerance to violence and vandalism policy next month.

Halton Hills council approved the policy at Monday's council meeting; ratification is expected at the Nov. 8 meeting. The policy applies to all Town owned/operated facilities, properties including sports fields and parks, and equipment. Town staff on site will be responsible for reporting incidents of bad behaviour.

"I think this is a great thing," said Wards 3 and 4 Regional Councillor Jane

Fogal. "There are some people out there that are going to be really shocked to find out what they're doing in the arena isn't kosher. There will be some people who do that behaviour

only in the arena and think that's part of the game... I think this will go a long way towards cleaning up the act of some well-meaning parents perhaps but they step over the line and maybe they don't real-

*'There are some people out there that are going to be really shocked to find out what they're doing in the arena isn't kosher.'*



JANE FOGAL

ize the effect they're having on their own kids."

It is estimated—conservatively—the cost of vandalism and violence at Town-owned and operated facilities runs as much as \$10,000 annually, stated in a report by facility supervisor John Archibald.

Town staff, who work at the facilities, say they have noticed over the past few

years a general behavioural change in many of the youth and adults participating in and/or watching the activities, he said. There have been numerous documented incidents of verbal abuse directed at Town staff, officials, coaching staff, participants and members of the general public.

Examples include:

- verbal assaults
- abusive profanity
- threats or attempts to intimidate
- aggressive approaches to another
- individual physical action against another individual
- attempts to incite violence in others

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