

# Town offers reward after vandals trash Remembrance Park

Members of Halton Hills council unanimously voted to offer a \$1,000 reward leading to the conviction of those responsible for the vandalism of Remembrance Park on the weekend.

Sgt. Don Cousens of Halton Regional Police said sometime overnight Sunday/Monday steel benches were tipped over, pulling up the interlocking stone they were fastened to and some shrubs were also uprooted.

"Some disrespectful imbeciles—for the lack of a better term, but that's what they are—vandalized our memorial park," said a disgusted Mayor Rick Bonnette at Monday's council meeting. "It's hard to believe that here we are honouring veterans for their service 60 years ago and this is what happens in our community."

Bonnette introduced the reward motion, seconded by Councillor Ron Chatten, a member of the town's vandalism committee, at Monday's meeting. The money will come from council's contingency fund.

The \$1,000 will be offered to anyone as a reward for supplying information that will lead to a guilty verdict against anyone who may have committed the vandalism.

"I think a lot of people will be

up in arms over this," said the mayor, "especially in the Year of the Veteran."

Councillor Mike O'Leary suggested anyone who had information but wanted to remain anonymous should call Crime Stoppers of Halton, 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). The mayor added the Town's reward would be over and above the Crime Stopper's reward.

"This isn't the first time it's happened," said Chatten, "and I'm just begging anyone with any information (to come forward), it would certainly be helpful."

The Remembrance Park neighbours, he said, have tried to be vigilant in keeping watch over the memorial, but perhaps more is needed such as special lighting. Halton Police too, he added, were very good in setting the park to rights until a Town public works crew could arrive.

"I hope anyone who did do it would go down there on Thursday night and see the people who are there for the Candlelight Walk. That might send more of message to the morons than anything else would," said Acton/Rural Regional Councillor Clark Somerville.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer with files from Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Vandals struck Remembrance Park late Sunday or early Monday, overturning benches and garbage cans. The town has offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of those who committed the act. Submitted photo

## To honour veterans Candlelight tributes, processions set for Acton and Georgetown

Candlelight tributes will be held in Halton Hills tomorrow (Thursday) in recognition of the contributions and sacrifices made by veterans.

During this Year of the Veteran, Candlelight Tributes Commemorative Ceremonies will be held in both Georgetown and Acton.

At 10 a.m. a procession of 1,100 school children from local schools will proceed from Georgetown Fairgrounds, along Charles St., toward Remembrance Park cenotaph where they will place a lighted candle in a symbolic "Passing of the Torch Remembrance." After placing their candle the students will shake hands with the veterans.

In the evening, any local residents who wish to take part in the Silent Walk are asked to gather at Cedarvale Park at 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m. the group will walk along Main St. to Remembrance Park where they will place candles and have the chance to meet veterans at a reception at Branch 120 of the Royal Canadian Legion on Mill St.

Anyone interested in participating in the Silent Walk in Acton is asked to be at the St. Alban's Church parking lot or olde Hide House parking lot at 7 p.m. The procession which ends at the cenotaph will leave at 7:30 p.m.

Students, parents and residents are welcome to participate, and afterward attend a reception at Branch 197 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Acton to meet with veterans.

To defray the costs of the candles placed by the students, local organizations, businesses and individuals are asked to make a donation, for which they will receive a receipt.

Candles are available at local retailers for \$5 each for participating in the walk processions, and a portion of the money collected will be used to purchase candles for students.

For more information about the tributes call Joyce Buchanan of Branch 197 in Acton at 519-853-0523, or in Georgetown, Bob McNeilly, of Branch 120, Georgetown at 905-877-4991.

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—Mayor Rick Bonnette



### Back pain?

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