



SURVIVOR
Popular contest
returns for another
year next week
Page 3

SPORTS
Raiders roll over
Bramalea Blues
by 12-2 count
Page 21



NEWS
GLT opens
*The Importance
of Being Earnest*
Page 18



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Injured deer crashes through pub's window

*Officers forced to kill animal
as kids trick-or-treat nearby*

The last thing Samantha Ruggle ever expected to see in her family's Georgetown pub was a live deer, but that is exactly what happened Saturday morning.

Ruggle, an owner of The Shepherd's Crook on Main St., was alone in the front of the pub, which hadn't opened yet for the day. She was working at the computer at the bar shortly after 11 a.m. when she was startled by a loud crash from behind her.

"I thought someone had driven into the front window," said Ruggle.

She turned to look, and saw some glass falling from the window, but it took a few seconds before she saw the cause of the crash—a deer, bleeding profusely from its nose, running frantically through the restaurant desperately trying to find a way out.

"My eyes must have popped right out of my head," said Ruggle, who added she was in shock and a "little hysterical" when she realized what had happened.

She said the young buck ran to the kitchen door, then the side door.

"It was literally on its hind legs trying to smash the window."

Ruggle said the animal came back toward her, and tried to get out through a brick wall.

"I was so frightened," said Ruggle. "The poor thing had to be suffering. It was awful."

She said while she knew deer didn't attack people she realized if she was in its way she was "going to get hurt." A cook was working in the kitchen at the time, but fortunately Ruggle said the kitchen door was closed so she was unaware of what was happening.

She tried to call her husband, but couldn't get through. She eventually got her father-in-law Richard Ruggle, another owner of the pub, on the phone, who rushed right over.

Ruggle said the deer eventually collapsed onto the floor.

"It just kind of sat down, it was panting so hard. I said it's okay, it's okay. I felt so sorry for it," said Ruggle.

See INJURED, pg. 3



A Halton Regional Police officer climbs through a broken window at The Shepherd's Crook pub on Main Street in downtown Georgetown moments after a deer smashed through the window Saturday afternoon. The injured buck (left) was humanely destroyed by officers.

Photos by Yves Desjardins



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