

Scaring up Halloween treats

Dozens of children flocked to downtown Georgetown Saturday for an afternoon of trick-or-treating on Main Street. Accommodating store owners eagerly handed out goodies which sisters Genevieve Bouzane, 6, (left) and Veronique, 9, were only too happy to accept.



Photo by Yves Desjardins

Survivor Part II returns next week

Eight Halton Hills businesspeople have once again been left to fend for themselves in the deepest, darkest, scariest part of the Credit River valley.

Their survival rests in the hands of *Independent & Free Press* readers who will determine which of the eight will be the winner of Survivor...Lost in the Wild II.

Beginning next Wednesday (Nov. 9),



and running for eight weeks until Dec. 28, readers will have a chance to cast a ballot to evict one of our eight Survivor contestants.

The last contestant left will win \$500 for the charity of his/her choice.

As well, readers will be eligible for a weekly prize and a grand prize is up for grabs at the end of the contest.

Look for complete contest rules in Friday's (Nov. 4) *Independent & Free Press*.

Injured buck smashes way into pub

Continued from pg. 1

After hearing the smashing glass, Kim Falls, who works at Foodstuffs across the street, rushed over and was shocked to see the frantic injured deer, which she heard had been hit earlier by a car on Park or Mill St. She said she was trying to figure out how to get Ruggle out of the bar and police were called.

In the meantime, a crowd had gathered, as there were several people—many of them young children—downtown trick-or-treating.

Falls herded the onlookers away from the pub, because she knew the deer was likely going to have to be killed.

Halton Hills Fire Department and police responded. A tarp was put over the front window and shortly after police arrived, two shots were fired. The deer was killed and taken out of the rear of the pub by Animal Control officers.

"The police did a fantastic job. They handled it quite quickly and professionally," said Ruggle.

"It was a mess, obviously," Ruggle said of the condition of the pub after the buck was removed.

There was quite a bit of blood, but only one chair and the window was broken.

But she said their insurance company brought in a company that handles crime scene cleanup. Everything has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected she said, some painting has been done, and it was business as usual Monday she said.

While it is not every day a deer jumps through a window, Ministry of Natural Resources information officer Jane Sirois said it is not uncommon.

She said this spring a deer jumped through the window of a sporting good store on Kingston Rd. in Toronto.

"They see a reflection in the window and they think its woods or a treed area," said Sirois.

"Deer are very high strung creatures and when they panic they kind of go wherever without a lot of thought," she said. She added deer are more active now because mating season has just begun.

Sirois said there are a "sizable number" of deer living in green spaces in the Greater Toronto Area.

Falls said while she has never before seen a deer in the downtown area she has been told deer have been seen in the ravine near Main St.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

Trustees ask minister to respond to 'crisis'

Five Halton District School Board trustees sent a letter last week to Education Minister Gerard Kennedy pleading that he act to keep the board from spiralling into what they fear could become a cash crisis.

Halton Hills' Ethel Gardiner, Oakville's Mary Chapin and Kelly Amos, and Burlington's Debbie Downs and Janie Hames signed the one-page letter, dated Oct. 24.

In it, they stated the Oct. 15 board decision—a motion the five voted against—to move ahead and build two schools in Burlington and Milton needed for next September, risks putting the board into "significant deficit."

The letter said the board only has enough money to build one school and urged the province to release long-awaited details of funding for new-school construction.

"As decisions of this board submerge the organization ever deeper in deficit—whether through... dismissals of senior staff or approving construction contracts we cannot afford—we urgently need direction from the minister of education upon whose auspices this public school system depends," the letter reads.

"Please, Mr. Minister, respond to Halton's crisis so that we might adequately serve the needs of our students."

Gardiner earlier called the plan to build the two schools "irresponsible."

"I voted no because I think trustees have a responsibility to the public and if the money is not there, as a trustee, how do you commit those funds on behalf of your constituents?" Gardiner said.

She added she supported building the Milton school as it carried a "small risk" but to build both schools was "way out there."

Chapin said she's concerned the board will not be able to pay the construction bills. That could leave trustees facing a lawsuit from unpaid contractors. As a trustee, she said she has to be fiscally responsible.

She is confident Kennedy will react to the letter and she realizes that might include sending in a supervisor.

"He (the minister) has the right to investigate the board when he believes (financial) obligations cannot be met," she said. "We're on the

verge of bankruptcy, as far as I can tell."

Board Chair Paul Tate disputes the letter's message, calling it "political grandstanding" and "irresponsible."

He said the board is doing what's in the best interest of students by building needed elementary schools, noting he thinks Chapin and Gardiner "still think they're chair of the board, (and) they're not."

Tate said he has "absolute confidence" the ministry of education will address the funding issues in Halton.

"The minister knows what's going on and he doesn't need a letter from these people," he said.



ETHEL GARDINER

Amanda Alvaro, spokesperson for Kennedy, said the minister has received the letter and will look into the situation "right away."

"We are going to look into it," she said.

Kennedy will contact the trustees who signed the letter to inform them he has seen it, Alvaro noted.

This is the second letter the group of trustees has sent to Kennedy asking he take some kind of action with the board.

In May, the day after the stunning announcement that eight-year director of education, Dusty Papke, was resigning—ultimately leaving with a controversial \$600,000 severance package—the same five asked the minister to intervene. The circumstances surrounding Papke's departure left the board divided.

"This board urgently needs your intervention," the earlier two-page correspondence, dated May 18, stated.

In July Kennedy said the fact the board "seems so divided" troubled him.

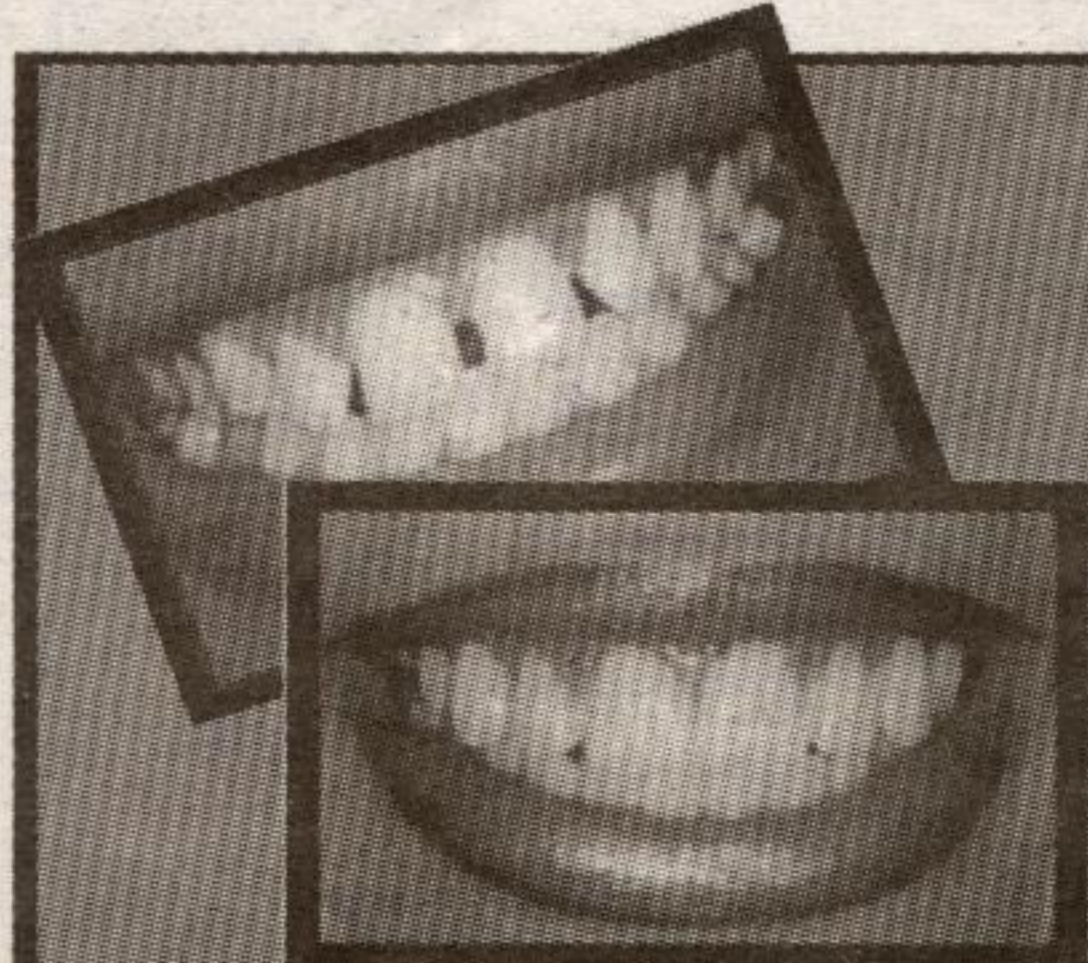
Meanwhile, new board education director Wayne Joudrie has seen the letter and said the theme about asking the province to release details for how new schools will be funded is what the board has been seeking for several months.

Joudrie wouldn't comment when asked if he thinks the letter will exacerbate division at the board.

At this point Chapin isn't worried about worsening an existing rift between trustees.

"I don't think it can be any deeper or wider," she said.

—By Jason Misner, special



ZOOM TOOTH WHITENING SYSTEM

Shade changes of 6 to 10 shades in about an hour

your smile says so much.

Cosmetic Dentistry

22 Guelph Street
downtowngeorgetowndental.com

(905)877-4371