

## Improved transit will come with a cost

While Halton Hills council has approved a report calling for improved transit service for people with disabilities, most of the funding approvals have been deferred to 2006 budget deliberations.

The resolution calls for:

- All persons with any physical, medical or cognitive disabilities and all seniors, 65 years of age or older, be allowed to use the ActiVan. Previously only wheelchair-bound residents were allowed to use it.

- The ActiVan bus (a new larger 17-seat bus has already been ordered) would remain as a curb-to-curb service, but the small van would be a door-to-door service. Priority is given as: work trips, school trips, medical trips and finally, other trips.

- Hours of operation of the ActiVan would be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, except holidays, at a cost of \$2 per trip.

- Trips outside of regular hours, booked 48 hours in advance would cost \$3.

Referred to 2006 budget discussions:

- The additional purchase of a small van with capacity for one wheelchair and one ambulatory person at a cost of \$60,000—mainly funded from reserves.

- The operating cost of the expanded ActiVan service—about \$60,000, including 100 hours of evening and weekend use.

- The hiring of a full-time staff person to co-ordinate the expanded ActiVan services at a cost of \$60,000 plus \$10,000 for marketing and another \$20,000 for one-time startup funding.

- Staff negotiate a taxi scrip service with all three taxi-cab companies at a cost of \$60,000 per year, with each registered user limited to a \$70 per month allowance.

- Staff negotiate with Halton Hills Community Support and Information for bus

services which ActiVan can't provide, on its new North Halton Rides bus, totalling \$3,000 per year.

"This is nowhere near public transit," said Ward 3 Councillor Moya Johnson, chair of the town's Accessibility Advisory Committee, a collective of councillors, staff and citizen appointees.

Last spring, council turned down a staff proposal to develop a public transit system for all residents after a review of high costs and strong opposition by local residents.

But some councillors, like Ward 2's Joan Robson, worried the addition of the small van would be the "thin edge of a wedge" for a wider transit service.

However, Acton's Jon Hurst said the small van would be ideal and could extend the life of the larger bus.

Some councillors worried about duplication of service after noting that Halton Hills Community Support and Information and the North Halton Red Cross plan to launch North Halton Rides, a bus service primarily between Halton Hills and Milton later this month.

But Drewlo said that pilot service, funded by the Ministry of Health, is directed at those requiring transportation for medical appointments, adult day programs, and supportive housing residents. It's also a service operating without boundaries, unlike ActiVan, which must remain within Halton Hills's borders.

Users of the transit service must register with the Town first. As of January 2005, there were 198 registered residents, 98 in July and only about 46 used the service during the year.

Drewlo said he expects that number to increase with the expanded service, eligibility criteria and better marketing.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

## Brampton man sought for attack on local woman

Halton Police are looking for a Brampton man wanted for the violent attack and sexual assault of a Georgetown woman Sunday.



EMMANUEL TAITT

Police report a man forcibly entered the home of his ex-girlfriend sexually assaulted, hit and kicked her. She sustained several injuries that required medical attention.

Police have issued charges of break and enter, assault causing bodily harm, criminal harass-

ment, sexual assault and breach of probation against Emmanuel Taitt, 21, of Leneck Ave., Brampton.

Police do not know where Taitt is, but said he has contacts throughout the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Orangeville.

Anyone with information concerning the investigation or the whereabouts of Taitt should contact Halton Police at 905-878-5511 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-22-TIPS.

## Police blotter

### Two teens wanted for theft of mall poppy donation box

Halton Police are looking for two people who stole a poppy box from a display in Georgetown Market Place Sunday morning. Police report the box, containing approximately \$300, was stolen while the attendant's back was turned. The box was later recovered but the money was gone.

One suspect is described as a male, mulatto, approximately 18-

years-old, 5'8", 130 lbs. with a thin build, dark hair and small beard.

The other suspect is described as female, white, 5'8", 160 lbs. with a heavy build, and approximately 18-years-old.

Approximately \$2,000 damage was caused late Friday or early Saturday to a Mercury van parked in a Park Ave. lot when a cement block was thrown onto its hood.

You Are Invited To Meet **TRISHA ROMANCE**

Sunday, November 13th from 2-5pm



\$320 Unframed



An excellent selection of artwork and collectible giftware products will be available for purchase during this show.



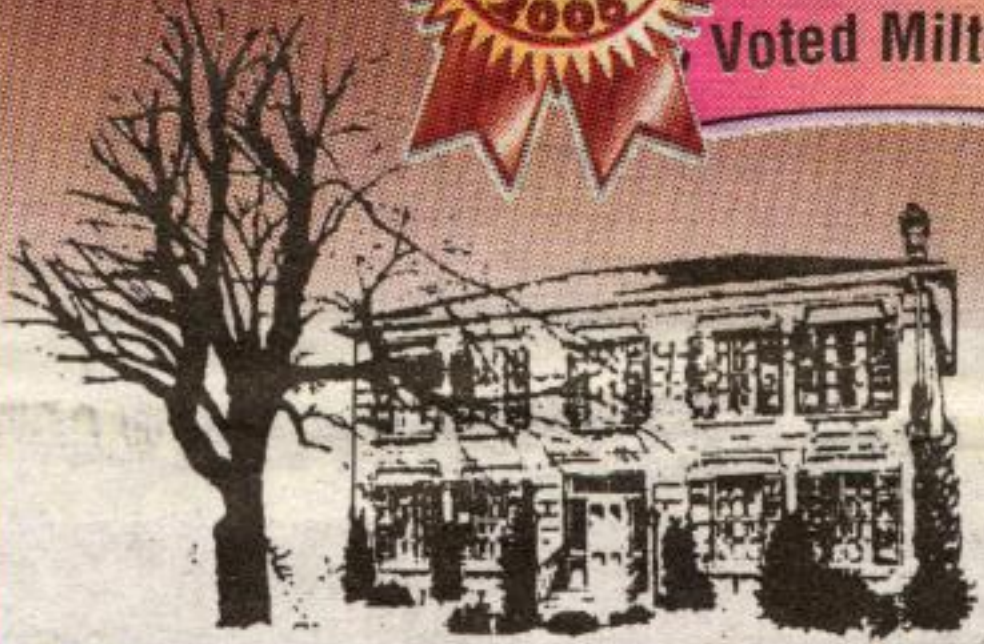
Glass Sculpture "Star of Wonder"

\$69.95

Now Taking Orders!



Voted Milton's Favourite Gallery & Picture Framing



**Harrop Art Gallery**

345 Steeles Ave. E., Milton

(905) 878-8161

## Georgetown Globe Productions Presents

Artistic Director: **Craig Marshall**

Music Director: **Myron DeSouza**

Choreographer: **Tia Mathieson**

Producers:

**Melissa Fischer  
Diane Shipley-Kardash**

Originally Produced on Broadway by:  
James B. Fryerberg  
Kenneth Field  
Lawrence Mark  
Norman D. Greenblatt

In Association With  
FAO SCHWARZ - FIFTH AVENUE

Book by:  
John Weidman

Music by:  
David Shire

Lyrics by:  
Richard Maltby, Jr.

By Special Arrangement with  
Music Theatre International

# big

the musical

Based upon the motion picture "big"  
Written by Gary Marshall and Anne Spielberg  
A Twentieth Century Fox Film

**John Elliott Theatre, Georgetown**  
**Box Office - 905-877-3700**

**November 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, & 26 @ 8:00 PM**

**November 20 @ 2:00 PM**

[www.georgetownglobeproductions.com](http://www.georgetownglobeproductions.com)

www.independentfreepress.com