

# ACTON FREE PRESS



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## FRIDAY...

Local barrel racer Sue Collier will be competing at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto this weekend. For a profile see Friday's edition.

For breaking news go to: [www.independentfreepress.com](http://www.independentfreepress.com)



## Getting a grip on Halloween

Karsten Paulsen, 9, of Acton gets a spooky pat on the shoulder from a bony friend at the Acton BIA's annual haunted house at the Off The Wall youth centre Saturday. Local children were invited to take in the

elaborate display and receive treats from participating downtown Acton merchants.

Photo by Yves Desjardins

# New Town bylaw promises quicker action

**CYNTHIA GAMBLE**  
Staff Writer

The Town of Halton Hills has created a new community standards bylaw that will reduce the amount of time residents have to wait for Town action on litter, long grass and weeds, icy sidewalks and another nuisance complaints.

It's expected under this new regulatory system that complaints, that often took as long as three to six months or even a year, can now be addressed in as little as 24 hours to seven days.

Nuisance items were previously lumped in the Property Standards bylaw that was designed to give property owners time to address the complaint themselves. But for issues like rotting garbage in hot temperatures or icy walkways in a public place, a three-month time frame for the owners is not acceptable before the Town can step in and take action.

"Say it's a really hot day and there's a pile of garbage—the officer will give the property owner notice of a day or two days to clean up, and failing to do that with the regulatory bylaw

the Town could perform the work and recover those costs in the same manner as taxes," said Debbie Edmonds, manager of licensing and legislative services at the Town of Halton Hills. "So it's an expedient way of getting rid of a problem like that that could have health repercussions."

Under the old system, the Town would have had to send out a Order by registered mail, that usually gives the owner at least 30 days to comply, plus a 15 day appeal process and so on.

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