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Raiders not enjoying season's beatings
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Last-minute Christmas Gift Guide
8-page section

50 cents (+GST) Vol. 129 No. 40 Tuesday, December 19, 2006 48 Pages Circulation 21,220 Voted Ontario's best newspaper

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Blue Springs fashion show a big hit

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MADD to honour victims of drunk driving

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THURSDAY...

The Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council has made its selection for the Hockey Heritage Award. For a profile on this year's winner see Thursday's edition.

For breaking news go to:
www.independentfreepress.com



Christmas grinch hits local church

Churchill Community Church organist Marie Anderson inspects the damage done to the church's sign over the weekend as vandals threw rocks at it, punching two holes about the size of a saucer through the plywood, as well as denting and loosening the sign in its

stand. The church, located at the corner of Churchill Road and 32 Sideroad (the Halton Hills/Erin boundary) has a faithful following of local rural residents with great pride in its upkeep.

Photo by Ted Brown

Town user fees to climb 3 per cent

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

User fees for Town of Halton Hills services will go up an average three per cent in 2007.

Business licensing fees, however, will remain unchanged and will not see any increase until at least 2010.

Jake Adema, Jake's Auto Service spoke about the business licensing fees, reminding council that the fees were frozen until the business licensing committee met with local businesses to discuss the perceived unfair treatment and structure of the fees. For example, some businesses pay

yearly while others only a one-time fee. So far, he said, no meeting has taken place.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said he appointed the new business licensing committee for 2007 and the issue will be reviewed in January or February.

Adema just cautioned that the committee should hear from all businesses before making any changes. Last year, the committee made changes to business licensing policy before taking it to the public.

Generally user fees will increase by 3 per cent in the following departments: Administration, Engineering and Public Works and Building Services, Finance, Fire and Planning and Development.

However, Planning and Development plans to submit a report in early 2007 recommending a number of changes to its fees.

The Recreation and Parks Department will increase the majority of its fees by 3-5 per cent with the exception of swimming and skating admission fees, which will remain unchanged.

However, fees for sports field lighting has been increased by 12 per cent due to hydro fee increases. Groups are required to pay the full cost of hydro used for lighting.

As well there will be a 10 per cent increase (\$1.44/hour) in fees for adults using a Major field.

For details on 2007 user fees go to the Town's website, www.haltonhills.ca.

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