



## Hub soon to be a reality

Among those on hand for the launching of the Acton Community Hub Monday at McKenzie-Smith Bennett School were (from left) Region chair Gary Carr, MSB vice-principal Caroline Reist, MSB student council president Dallas Shewfelt, MSB principal Sharon French, MSB student council member Megan Paul, Halton Region Children's Services director Mary Beth Jonz, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, Halton District School Board Trustee Gerry Ockenden and Halton Catholic District School Board Trustee Rosanna Palmieri.

Photo by Ted Brown

## Thieves target Sally Ann shop

LISA TALLYN  
Staff Writer

"You have been hacked," was the message employees found scrawled on the marker board in the Georgetown Salvation Army Thrift Store Sunday morning.

But that wasn't all they found.

Mustard, relish, ketchup, salad dressing, and mayonnaise had been taken out of the fridge in the store's kitchen and splashed throughout the store— on clothing for sale, the walls, ceiling, counter, cash register and counterfeit bill detector. The Red Shield box sitting on the counter was emptied of its change, jewelry was taken along with several CDs, videos and a Princess Diana collector plate that was up for auction in the store's front window.

"It's the Salvation Army, we're here to help people," said an incredulous Debbie Murphy, manager of the store. "They don't realize what they're taking out of the community."

At press time Murphy didn't have an exact value of the items taken and damage caused at the Mill St. store during the break and enter late Saturday or early Sunday, but estimated it is "in the thousands."

"A brand new cash register had salad dressing poured into the keys," said Murphy. She figures that machine will have to be replaced, as will the counterfeit money detector that had mustard and

other condiments poured into it.

The money to replace those items comes right out of the Salvation Army coffers— money that would normally be used to help the needy in the community.

Murphy said at least 150 clothing items had to be tossed in the garbage because of the damage.

"Someone just went down the rows with the (condiment) bottle open, dumping it on each one."

This is not the first time the thrift store has been hit. Back in December 2001 thieves broke into the store, ransacked the donated items in the storeroom and stole an undisclosed amount of cash from a locked closet.

Murphy said the man who rents the apartment above the store heard a loud bang at approximately 10:30 p.m. Saturday. He came downstairs to investigate, saw someone running from the back of the store, but saw that the door was closed so assumed everything was alright in the store.

Police said when employees arrived at the store Sunday morning the front door was unlocked.

"Disappointment," is how Murphy described her reaction to the break-in. "I'm hoping that someone did see something and will come forward."

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call Halton Police at 905-878-5511 ext. 2110 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.



Salvation Army Thrift Store manager Debbie Murphy surveys the damage done by thieves who hit the downtown Georgetown shop Saturday.

Photo by Ted Brown

## Police blotter

# Three men charged after local woman sexually assaulted

Three Halton Hills men are facing charges after a 36-year-old Georgetown woman was sexually assaulted at her home early Saturday morning.

Police report the woman had been at a Halton Hills bar with a group of people then was driven home by three men she knew who sexually assaulted her.

The woman was injured in the incident. Police were called and she was taken to Joseph Brant Hospital where she was treated and released.

Charged with one count each of gang sexual assault is Gregory McGovern, 20, of Main St. S., Nicholas Hamer, 19, of Hwy. 25, and Cody Wilson, 18, of Kingham Rd.

All three are to be in Milton court on April 23.

A Brampton man is facing charges after police pulled over the driver of a Dodge Caravan on Hwy. 7 Sunday afternoon. Police were called to the area because a citizen had seen the van being driven erratically.

Charged with impaired driving and having over 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood is Vasilios Tharrenos, 44, of Hanley Ct. Brampton.

A Georgetown man was charged

after an incident at Boston Pizza at approximately 11:20 p.m. Saturday. Police report a man believed to be intoxicated was asked to leave and escorted out by a male employee of the restaurant. The man ripped the employee's shirt and punched him in the eye.

Charged with assault and public intoxication is Shawn McCulloch, 23, of Chipper Ct.

Three computer towers and a cash box were taken from Superior Glove on Vimy St., Acton during a break and enter sometime between Saturday and Monday. A window was forced open to gain entry. The value of the stolen items is approximately \$3,500.

A construction company office located at the northwest corner of Winston Churchill Blvd. and Steeles Ave. was entered sometime late Friday or early Saturday. A sliding glass door was broken to gain entry. Locked drawers were pried open and a cashbox was stolen.

Approximately \$3,500 worth of tools were taken sometime between Friday and Monday from a trailer at a construction site on Steeles Ave. at Sixth Line.

## Employees were locked in fridge Brampton men facing charges in armed hold-up at Swiss Chalet

Two Brampton men are facing charges in connection with the armed robbery at Swiss Chalet in Georgetown last month.

The robbery occurred Feb. 17 at approximately 11:50 p.m. when a man pointed a gun at an employee behind the restaurant and ordered him back inside.

Once inside the store the three suspects ordered the employee and three other employees into the walk-in refrigerator, removed an undisclosed amount of money from the store safe and cash drawer, then fled.

Approximately 20 minutes after they left the employees forced open the refrigerator door, got out, and called police.

Halton Police worked with Peel

and York Regional Police Services on the investigation as it was believed the suspects in the Swiss Chalet robbery were active in all three regions.

On Wednesday (March 14) Peel Police arrested four men in connection with four recent home invasion-style robberies in the Brampton area, and two of the men were later charged with the Swiss Chalet robbery.

Charged with robbery, assault with a weapon, wear disguise, four counts of forcible confinement and conspiracy is Patrick Kelleher, 20, and Horraine Bennett, 19, both of Brampton.

Police are looking for a third suspect.

Spring Edition coming Wednesday March 28

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