

# THE INDEPENDENT

## & FREE PRESS

Recipe of the week:  
Dill pickles

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Tiny Treasures  
artists profiled

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Friday, September 7, 2007

60 Pages

Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper

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plans one-day  
marathon

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Recreation  
director  
for a day

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### WEDNESDAY...

The 161st edition of the Georgetown Fall Fair gets under way today. Look for a full details in Wednesday's edition.

For breaking news go to:  
www.independentfreepress.com



### An eye-popping performance

The Acton and Georgetown branches of the Halton Hills Public Library recently presented Applefun Puppetry's *Purple Pirate* show. Mike Harding's interactive show featuring pirate ships, whales, treasure hunts and puppets (below) left 11-month-old Christopher Virtue and mom Joanne of Acton wide-eyed with amazement.

Photos by Jon Borgstrom



Halton Pride's rainbow flag is now flying at the Civic Centre.

Photo by Ted Brown

## Town will fly Pride flag

CYNTHIA GAMBLE  
Staff Writer

Despite the opposition of at least one member of the public, the Halton Pride flag is now flying at the Halton Hills Civic Centre.

Town council voted to change its flag and proclamations policy at its Tuesday meeting to allow HOPE (Halton Organization for Pride and Education) to promote its aims— anti-homophobia training and educational resources, and community services for homosexual and trans-gendered persons as well as their family and friends— with the flying of its rainbow flag at the Civic Centre.

The changed policy now reads that "flags representing private organizations, events, and causes shall NOT be displayed EXCEPT FOR flags representing established not-for-profit organizations dedicated to the promotion and preservation of human rights in Ontario where the flag raising is requested in recognition of an event(s) or project(s) in Ontario that is intended to promote the upholding of those rights protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code, or to prevent discrimination in Ontario based on any of the

protected grounds set out in the Ontario Human Rights Code (race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or disability)."

This changes a 10-year-old policy that stated the Town would not fly the flags of any organizations. Through the years council made two exceptions— flying the flag of Ermelo, Holland during a friendship exchange and the Terry Fox Run flag marking the 25th anniversary of the Canadian hero's run through the town.

But last month, HOPE again called on council to change what it viewed as a discriminatory policy. At that time, council was silent on HOPE's charge and instead referred the matter to the Sept. 4 meeting of Corporate Affairs meeting and directed Town Chief Administrative Officer Dennis Perlin to review the 1997 policy.

Perlin noted in his report the flag and proclamation policy was adopted 10 years ago after the Town began receiving 72 requests a year and at the same time questions were being asked whether by raising the flag, council was sanctioning support for an organization and its cause.

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