

THE INDEPENDENT



The Essentials are ready to open Acton Fall Fair
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Officials investigating farmhouse blaze
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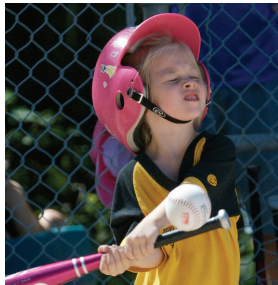
50 cents (+GST) Vol. 130 No. 26 **Wednesday, September 12, 2007** 44 Pages Circulation 21,220 Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper

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Donor wall unveiled at new centre

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Kinsmen Girls wrap up ball season

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FRIDAY...

The town's future as a "green community" got a boost when municipal experts shared their "can do" attitude at a forum last week. See details Friday.

For breaking news go to: www.independentfreepress.com



A cut above

Bryan Couture makes short work of slicing through a log during the West Coast Lumberjack Show at the 161st edition of the Georgetown Fall Fair Saturday. An estimated 6,000 people attended the three-day event at the Georgetown Fairgrounds. For more coverage see page 3. *Photo by Jon Borgstrom*

Off-duty Peel police officer charged after altercation

Halton Police have charged an off-duty Peel Regional Police officer after an investigation into a domestic incident in Georgetown.

On Monday, Sept. 10, at 1:45 a.m. Halton Police were called to investigate an altercation at a Georgetown residence.

Officers responded and learned that a man had entered the home of his ex-wife. Once inside, he assaulted the woman's boyfriend and left.

Police were called and the man was later located at his residence in Georgetown and arrested.

Jason Ross, 34, faces charges of assault, being

unlawfully in a dwelling house and breach of recognition. He had a bail hearing yesterday (Tuesday) in Milton Court and will be held in custody until Friday, Sept. 14.

Ross has been working as a Peel officer for seven years. The circumstances of this incident are being reviewed by the Peel Police Internal Affairs Bureau.

Halton Police are also continuing to investigate. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Milton Criminal Investigations Bureau at 905-825-4777 or 905-634-1831 ext. 2420 or by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Library project put on the shelf

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

Like a much-anticipated best seller whose publication date keeps being pushed back, the planned \$11.5-million expansion and renovation of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre and Library has been placed on hold.

Speed-reading to the back page—there's no water at this time to build more homes, and without more development there's no more development charges (DCs) and without DCs, there's no money to pay for new Town facilities.

"We're in a real serious situation," said Mayor Rick Bonnette, right before a unanimous council vote to place the project on hold at a special council meeting Monday night. "We're looking at close to \$19-million in capital projects for the two fire halls as well as the library and the Cultural Centre, and we just can't go-ahead without knowing where the money is coming from."

Director of Finance Ed DeSousa painted a grim picture of the future financial standing of the Town should no water be found to build more development. The need to build capital projects—fire stations, libraries, arenas, parks, roads etc.—would strip the ability to pay.

Halton Region has been attempting to get approvals from the Ministry of Environment (MOE) to draw more water from Lindsay Court and Cedarvale groundwater wells in Georgetown and from the Prospect well in Acton. In a meeting with the MOE recently, the Town and Halton Region learned those approvals are not

See LACK, pg. 3

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