

THE INDEPENDENT

& FREE PRESS

Recipe of the week:
Crock pot beef

Page 22



Georgetown man
climbs Mt. Kilimanjaro
Page 7



50 cents (+GST)

Friday, February 29, 2008

64 Pages

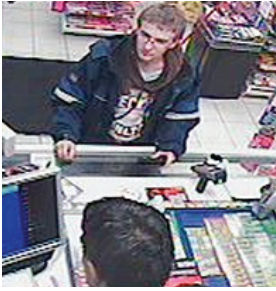
Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper

INSIDE



Readers' Choice
votes are
in!

24-Page section



Police seek
thief spotted
on store video

Page 5

Editorial 6
Calendar 10, 15, 22
Sports 13, 14
Classifieds 18-21

WEDNESDAY...

The Halton District School Board has adjusted its walking distance criteria for busing for the 2008-09 school year. For details see Wednesday's edition.

For breaking news go to:
www.independentfreepress.com



Birthday girl turns 20

Georgetown grandmother Elva Preston got a headstart on her 20th birthday celebration Wednesday by blowing out the candles on her cake. Preston, who was born February 29, 1928, is a leap year baby who says she's "happy to no longer be a teenager". See story page 9.

Photo by Ted Brown

Study reveals high bacteria levels in wells

MELANIE HENNESSEY
Special to The IFP

Too many residential wells in Halton have high levels of bacteria in them, according to a recent health department study.

The results, which were presented to the Region's health and social services committee last week, revealed that of the 261 wells randomly tested by the Halton Region Health Department in 2007— largely in Halton Hills and Milton— 37 per cent had unacceptable water quality in terms of bacteria. The number is on par with the 2006 results of 38 per cent.

"It is disconcerting to see the results," said Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal. "These percentages are still much too high."

He highlighted one particularly worrisome discovery— of the 37 per cent with bacteriologically unsafe water, 13 per cent had developed the problem since the 2006 study.

But, he said the good news is that the health department isn't receiving reports of any illnesses caused by the bacteria.

The study also found that a high proportion of the surveyed wells— up to one third— have deficiencies that could lead to water supplies being contaminated by surface and rain water runoff.

"Many of these deficiencies, such as cracks in well casing or poor drainage around the well head allow bacteria to contaminate the well, making it an unsafe water source," Nosal reported.

"Proper well construction and maintenance is the first line of defence to safeguard drinking water from contamination."

During the 2006 study, health department staff found that up to 34 per cent of the wells they inspected had deficiencies. While they advised the homeowners of the problems, the most recent results show the majority of survey participants didn't make structural improvements to their wells.

The health department advises that even when water treatment devices are used, wells should be inspected at least once a year and the necessary repairs completed.

See WELL-USERS, pg. 3



'It's disconcerting to see these results.'

—Halton Medical
Officer of Health
Dr. Bob Nosal

APPLE Auto Glass®

We handle all insurance work.

•Truck Accessories •Upholstery
•Heavy Equipment Glass •Window Tinting

354 Guelph Street, Georgetown
(905) 873-1655

Georgetown Volkswagen

203 Guelph Street
905.877.5285
georgetownvw.com

New prices start now.

The spirit of Autobahn has been at the heart of every Volkswagen since the very beginning. With the launch of the City, we made Autobahn available to a whole new generation. Now we've lowered the MSRPs of every other new 2008 Volkswagen by as much as \$200 to \$5,800. With our new lower prices, special lease offers, and finance rates as low as 0.9%, we're busy making Autobahn available to everyone.

Autobahn for all.



GEORGETOWN **KIA**

VOTED #1 FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE

2008 KIA SEDONA 1.9% FINANCE Up to 60 mos

CALL THE GEORGETOWN HEADQUARTERS 1-866-364-0697 or 905-877-7818