

THE INDEPENDENT



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Health Care special section
12-Pages



50 cents (+GST) Vol. 131 No. 10 Wednesday, May 21, 2008 48 Pages Circulation 22,500 Halton Hills' award-winning newspaper

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FRIDAY...
Look for an update on the ongoing battle to save a BMX track at Halton Place in Wednesday's *Independent & Free Press*.

For breaking news go to: www.independentfreepress.com



My, what big eyes you have!

Janice Porter of Exotic Critter Tales shows off two-year-old lemur Cledus at an exhibit at Bang-O-Rama over the weekend. The cool, damp weather kept some crowds away with attendance reaching only about 5,000 for the 25th anniversary edition of the event held at Georgetown Fairgrounds, compared to 10,000 the previous year. Bang-O-Rama chairman Danny Edwards said the weather was more cooperative for the fireworks Sunday evening, however, and area residents "filled the stands" to take in the show. Bang-O-Rama is hosted by the Optimist Club of Georgetown each year to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday and mark the unofficial start of summer. For more photos see page 5.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

Cenotaph blaze was likely an accident

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

A local resident who extinguished a fire at the Remembrance Park cenotaph in the early hours of May 10 says that vandals weren't the cause of the blaze, as originally reported in an article last week in *The Independent & Free Press*.

Chris Toth, of Princess Anne Dr. was driving by the park at around 4 a.m. when he noticed an orange glow coming from the monument, with flames reaching four to five feet in height.

Approximately 1,100 candles had been lit at the cenotaph earlier in the day by area school children and burned unattended through the night as part of a tribute to Canada's fallen wartime soldiers.

Toth called 911 on his cell phone and proceeded to put out the fire himself, filling up grocery bins kept in his truck using water from a nearby fountain.

The Halton Hills Fire Department responded to the call soon after.

Initially, staff members from the Town of Halton Hills' operations department and representatives of the Candlelight Tribute Committee said that the candles had been stacked up at one end of the cenotaph by unknown persons to fuel the fire, which caused damage to the granite stone base of the monument.

Toth, however, said that he is certain the fire was caused by the combustible plastic casing for the candles and the manner in which they were placed—not by an act of vandalism.

See CANDLES, pg. 3

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