

A senior Samba?



Photo by Ted Brown

Latin dancer Tetuana Babyich taught some of the braver ladies a few dance steps as part of the Seniors Month Celebrations at the Gellert Community Centre recently. Seniors enjoyed both music and dancing at the celebration.

Police blotter Sales office, school 'tagged' with graffiti

A sales representative with the Remington Homes development in Georgetown South reported to police incidents of graffiti that occurred sometime late Wednesday or early Thursday of last week.

Water storage containers, sewage containers and the western wall of the sales office were defaced, with a damage estimate of approximately \$500.

Also in Georgetown South, St. Brigid Catholic Elementary School was targeted by graffiti vandals some time on the weekend as "name-tagging" was sprayed on the outside wall of the building.

Anyone with information is asked to call Halton Regional Police Service's 11 Division at 905-877-5511.

Rescuers worked 'with professionalism'

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drag the 5-foot-8, 180-pound Ford to the surface at the side of the pool, where GDHS teacher and swim team coach Jon Newcombe, with the assistance of Neely, removed Ford from the water by pulling him up by the arms. Ford was estimated to have been under water for 20 to 30 seconds.

Neely began performing artificial respiration as Newcombe tried to establish whether the victim had a pulse. She placed a resuscitation mask on Ford and after two breaths he was able to breathe on his own.

The rescuers then rolled Ford on his side and water poured out of his mouth, while the second lifeguard on duty that morning, Leah Avery, called 911. Livingston was given the phone to provide information about his classmate to the responding Emergency Medical Services personnel as Avery then helped attend to Ford. Student Alex Marschall and assistant swim coach Krista Nicholls also provided support during the rescue.

Ford was taken to Georgetown Hospital and then airlifted to Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, where it was determined that he had suffered a seizure.

"It was a bad situation but

every single last person there acted quickly—the pool staff, the board staff and the students—and they all acted with professionalism," said Newcombe, a volunteer firefighter with the Town of Halton Hills.

"I don't think it could have gone better, considering the situation. We had a lot of people with a lot of experience at the pool that day and we were also lucky that we didn't have that many swimmers out because that can always gum up the water."

The two lifeguards, as well as the students and teaching staff involved from GDHS, were recognized for their rescue efforts by the Town of Halton Hills at a ceremony last week.

"It's just amazing how your instincts kick in," said the 21-year-old Neely, entering her fourth and final year at McMaster University's nursing program.

"We learn in training that in those situations you can either panic and fall on your face or be calm and do what you're supposed to do. Everybody was just amazing and thankfully it went well. Drake did such a good job pulling Jeremy to the side of the pool so that I didn't have to get into the water."

For his part, Livingston said that his first-aid training took over when he realized his friend



A near-drowning in the indoor pool located at Georgetown District High School took place less than two weeks ago and the actions of the rescuers were acknowledged at a ceremony last week held at the Town of Halton Hills' Civic Centre. GDHS swim team member Jeremy Ford (front row, middle) was pulled from the pool and resuscitated thanks to the efforts of lifeguards, school staff and fellow students. Pictured above

(front, from left) are: lifeguard Leah Avery, students Alex Marschall, Ford and Drake Livingston, lifeguard Katrina Neely. Back row: GDHS teachers and swim team coaches Jon Newcombe and Krista Nicholls, Halton District School Board chair Gillian Tuck Kutarna and Town of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

Photo by Ted Brown

fooling around. I don't know what happened and I'm not sure anyone knows. The good thing is that he's okay now."

"He was pretty heavy but I was able to push him up to the wall," he said. "We were just swimming regularly and it was near the end so we were just

Ford added that was back to class the following Monday and

that he felt fine a week later, other than some stiffness.

"I can't really find the words to thank everyone," Ford said.

(Eamonn Maher can be reached at emaher@independentfreepress.com)

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