

Girls enjoy a night out

The Town of Halton Hills Dance and Cheerleading Camp recently gave the kids an opportunity to show off what they had learned at the camp's wrap-up show entitled *Girls' Night Out*, at the Gellert Community Centre. Laura Flydorf (front) and Julia Duggan were among the girls who showed some fancy footwork.



Photo by Ted Brown

Health inspections 'intensive'

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As of Monday, six Ontario deaths have been directly linked to the outbreak.

Because the onset of symptoms of listeriosis can occur up to 70 days after contaminated food is consumed, the CFIA expects the number of confirmed and suspected cases will continue to increase over the next several weeks.

Listeria can be found in a variety of dairy and meat products, vegetables and fish, soil, water and manure-based fertilizers, and is carried by farm animals. People can also carry it on their hands.

The disease affects primarily older individuals, pregnant women, newborns, and those with weakened immune systems, according to PHAC.

The expanded recall and plant clean up will cost the company an estimated \$20 million as well as the loss of public confidence in the company.

Products affected by the recall have the number 97B printed near the expiry or packaging date. To view a complete list of the recalled meat products, visit www.mapleleaf.ca or www.inspection.gc.ca and click on the "listeria investigation and recall" link on the right hand side of the page, under the heading, "Hot Topics".

Several food industry giants—including Tim Hortons, McDonald's and Boston Pizza—have pulled some products from their menus in response to the listeria outbreak.

Meanwhile, Halton's health department has confirmed it is working with its provincial counterparts to help investigate and control the outbreak.

"Health department staff has been keeping Halton health-care facilities up to date with information related to this outbreak, and has been providing local surveillance information to the provincial authorities," said Dr. Monir Taha, Halton's associate medical officer of health. "We are increasing communication with food vendors, and adding extra inspections to assist with the CFIA recall."

Ruf said two-dozen inspectors are attempting to visit independent, non-chain businesses across Halton to ensure they are aware of the recall and have removed any potentially contaminated meat products.

So far, inspectors have not found any recalled

products still on the shelf during their visits, which is good news, Ruf said. He said the inspections would carry on at least for the rest of this week.

"(The inspections) are very intensive," he said.

The food safety manager stressed to residents that if they have meat in their fridge or freezer and aren't sure where it came from, they should get rid of it.

"Our motto is when in doubt, throw it out," he said.

On average, Halton has one to two cases of listeria per year, the health department noted.

—With files from Lisa Tallyn, staff writer and Torstar News Service

Listeria prevention tips

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) offers the following tips for preventing exposure to potentially-deadly listeria bacteria.

- Keep foods out of the temperature danger zone (between 4C and 60C or 40F and 140F). Keep your refrigerator at 4C (40F) or colder. Refrigerate food promptly.

- Thoroughly cook or boil foods such as hot dogs and poultry products until they are steaming hot.

- Avoid raw, unpasteurized milk or foods made from it such as raw milk cheese.

- Purchase only as much product as will be consumed in 1-2 days.

- Wash raw vegetables thoroughly before eating.

- Wash hands before, during and after handling any type of food, especially raw meat and poultry.

- Clean all utensils, cutting boards and work surfaces with a mild bleach solution (5 ml/1 tsp. bleach per 750 ml/3 cups water) before and after using.

- Separate utensils for raw and cooked foods.

- Follow "use by" dates especially on packaged goods with a long shelf life.

- Avoid soft cheeses such as Brie, Camembert, feta and queso blanco fresco.

- Avoid refrigerated smoked fish products unless you have cooked them, for example, in a casserole.

Police blotter

Weekend break and enters are related, police believe

Police are investigating two break and enters into Guelph St. businesses over the weekend. Police believe the two incidents are related.

Between 10 p.m. Saturday and 6:50 a.m. Sunday police report the telephone wires were cut disconnecting the alarm at the Esso Station on Guelph St.

Entry was gained through a door on the west side of the building. The Automated Teller Machine (ATM) was drilled open and cash removed. A safe was also broken into and cash removed.

Also taken were 75 cartons of cigarettes.

Police report someone broke into nearby Shoeless Joe's restaurant, also on Guelph St., between 1 and 8:20 a.m. Sunday.

Phone cables were also cut there, disconnecting the alarm.

A window was forced to gain entry.

The ATM and safe were broken into. Cash was taken.

Police are investigating a robbery that occurred in Acton Sunday evening.

Police say a 65-year-old Acton man met a man and woman at the LeatherTown Tavern in Acton and had drinks with them.

He then drove them to the Church St. area where the woman pulled a knife on him and demanded money. He refused. She scratched his face with her fingernails and he turned over cash.

The woman attempted to reach into the man's car and take the keys, but didn't get them.

The driver of the car threatened to call police and the man and woman fled on foot.

A 15-year-old Georgetown boy is facing charges in connection with several recent incidents in town.

The incidents related to the charges include a break-in at a portable at Harrison School between Aug. 6 and 22, the Aug. 22 theft of a Metro Geo from a Sixth Line residence, break and enter into buses at First Student Canada on Armstrong Ave. Aug. 6.

The charges include two counts of break and enter and one count each of commit mischief, possession of stolen property and public mischief.

Police are looking for a man in connection with the theft of \$560 in cash from the LCBO in Georgetown Friday afternoon.

Town's investment portfolio totals \$51.6M

The book value of Town of Halton Hills's cash and investment portfolio amounts to \$51.6 million.

It includes \$10.4 million in cash, \$19 million invested with Region of Halton, \$32,900 in a ONE Money Market Fund and \$22.3 million in a ONE Bond Fund. The book value increased by \$6.3

million over last year. Police say a man took the money from a clerk at the store at about 4:29 p.m. using sleight of hand and distraction techniques. Police say a similar incident occurred two weeks ago at an LCBO in Brampton.

The man is described as in his late-20s, of middle-eastern heritage with an accent, 5'6" to 5'8", with black short hair and thin long sideburns, clean cut, wearing a dark long-sleeved button dress shirt.

Police say the man spoke poor English and appeared shy, timid and nervous.

Two mobile trailers at a construction site on Steeles Ave. near Sixth Line were entered sometime late Wednesday or early Thursday.

A fire extinguisher was discharged, and taken were two flat-screen computers, laser levels and a nail gun.

The value of the stolen items is \$9,600.

A Halton Hills man is facing a drug charge after police discovered a small marijuana grow operation at his home Monday evening.

Police executed a search warrant at the home on an unrelated matter and while there found 10 marijuana plants growing outside.

Charged with production of a controlled substance is Sebastian Gionet, 25, of Eighth Line.

Police charged a 27-year-old Cobourg man with speeding and stunt driving after he was clocked going 178 km/h in a 70 km/h zone on Eighth Line Saturday at approximately 7 p.m.

Approximately \$300 worth of copper phone cable was stolen from an overhead Bell line on Fourth Line south of 15 Sideroad late last Monday or early Tuesday.

Police report a 1.5 tonne air conditioner still in the package and \$2,000 worth of lumber was stolen from a Main St. Acton property sometime between Friday and Monday.

Two Acton youths have been charged in connection with the theft of a VISA card from an unlocked vehicle at a Hill St., Acton residence Sunday afternoon.

The card was used after it was stolen.

Charged with theft of a credit card and four counts of unauthorized use of a credit card is a 16-year-old male and 15-year-old male.