



**THE WINNERS:** The Acton Branch of the Halton Hills Public Library celebrated Ontario Public Library Week with a gift basket draw and the lucky winners were Kiona Garofolo (kids basket) and Cathy Lee (adult basket). - submitted photos

## Fire Escape Plan popular

Fire Prevention Staff in Halton Hills are winding up their "Practice Your Escape Plan" activities held during September and October.

Starting with Education Day at the Acton Fall Fair, staff provided about 200 school-age children with a "practice your escape plan" drill in their recently acquired fire safety house trailer. This exercise was also provided to all grade 4 children from 16 schools in Halton Hills in October.

Forty-five classroom sessions were conducted in Sparky's Fire Safety House and approximately 850 children were put through the exercise of escape planning. The classroom session spoke of smoke alarm awareness, followed by a practical drill which consisted of a series of events eventually ending with the safe evacuation from the home.

Waking up to the smoke alarm, the child

sits up to find the bedroom full of smoke. Rolling from the bed to the floor, the child crawls to the main entrance, but finding the door hot to the touch must turn and crawl to the other means of exit.

Thursday October 11 was also designated the day for schools to participate in the World's Largest Fire Drill. The drill is part of a province-wide initiative created to heighten awareness for school children and their families.

Chief Olivieri says, "This presented a means of capturing the attention of approximately 10,000 children in Halton Hills."

Fire Prevention staff were also present at the Canadian Tire Store Georgetown where they greeted customers and gave a decorative Halloween bag containing assorted fire safety pamphlets, brochures, colouring books, stickers and a Community Safety Guide.

## High School Improv Club back for another season

By Matthew Reid

The Acton High School's Improv Comedy Club is back for another season, and you can bet they're ready to dish out the laughs. For those who aren't aware of what "improv" is, it's essentially improvised comedy, done off the cuff without scripts or directors. The best comparison is the television show "Who's Line Is It Anyways?" which was an improvised comedy show hosted by Drew Carey.

The comedic concoction that ADHS students perform comes from the mind of teacher Jen Ross, who leads and teaches the group.

The club is going on its seventh season, with its original group starting in 2001-2002. What started as eight or nine students performing hilarious comedy routines has turned into a club that now has 15-20 members.

"It was a way for kids who weren't into sports to have a place to go," says organizer Jen Ross. "It's a club not a team, so there are no try-outs, everyone is welcome to join in."

The club meets every Thursday in the drama room at 3:40 pm where they play numerous "improv skills



**IMPROVISATION:** Acton High School's Improv Club struts its stuff during practice at the school. - Matthew Reid photo

games." These games can include things like establishing imaginary environments, or having conversations with no script and letting the hilarity ensue.

Ross explains that having no script and making jokes off the top of your head is what improv comedy is all about.

"The trick is not to think," says Ross. "If you make a mistake, it's a gift. Mistakes are your best friend."

The club sometimes performs for the students of Acton High on lunch breaks or during activities like the Grade 9 Day at the beginning

of the school year. The group also performs at the yearly talent show and during Relay For Life, which the team has participated in for the last four years.

The group's next performance will be on a much larger stage than the school can provide. They will be in Mississauga at The Living Arts Centre participating in Making A Scene, "A celebration of dance, drama and diversity in Halton's schools," on November 29.

"It's just the thing for anyone with a wacky, interesting personality," she says.

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