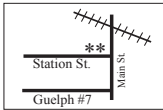


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# Fewer people use Acton needle exchange

While Region-wide there was a 18 per cent increase last year in the total number of needles distributed in Halton's needle exchange program, the figures for Acton show a 50 per cent decrease in the number of people who exchanged used needles for new ones.

In 2008, four people used the Acton location to exchange needles – one person exchanged needles for intra-muscular injections of drugs such as hormones or anabolic steroids. Three people exchanged

needles for intravenous injection of drugs such as cocaine, heroin and opiates. In 2007 in Acton, eight people exchanged needles, three for intra-muscular and five for intravenous injection of drugs.

The Halton Works needled exchange program began in 2000 as part of a harm reduction program that includes client counselling, skill building and education, distribution of condoms and referral to addiction treatment and health services.

In 2008, the program provided needle exchange services to clients on 539 occasions and provided advice, information and counselling on an additional 133 occasions for 672 individual client contacts, up by 10 per cent from 2007.

Total needle distribution for 2008 increased 18 per cent over the previous year with 58,214 new needles being handed out. Last year, 36,887 used needles were collected for an annual return rate of 63 per cent.

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## Contractor unable to finish streets

### Firm has gone out of business

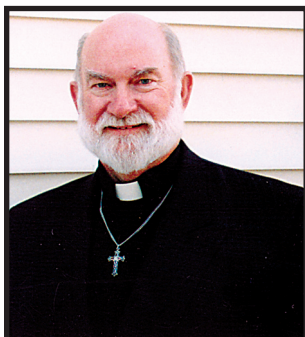
By Frances Niblock

The Town will have to find another contractor to complete the final stages of reconstruction of several Acton streets because the firm that began the job has gone out of business.

Residents of Mill Street East, Acton Boulevard, Peel Street and Perth Street received a letter from the Town last week informing them that Al-Pak Construction Services of Milton was no longer in business, and that the Town is determining how to complete the work begun last year.

The \$1.6 million joint Town/Region project included resurfacing Mill Street East from Wellington Street to Acton Boulevard, and reconstruction of Peel Street from Young Street to Wellington Street and Perth Street from CN tracks to Wallace Street. The Region's work included new watermains and sanitary sewers under the roads. The Town's portion of the job was worth \$700,000

*Continued on page 2*



**Historic Churchill Church has a new minister. See page 5**



**La Vielle Auberge is now "Heaven on 7" Story on page 11**



**When you're a Murphy you gotta be Irish? See Seniors' Recreation column on Page 8**

### Acton man charged with trafficking

On Monday of this week at 9:40pm, Halton Regional Police Criminal Investigations Unit stopped a vehicle on Church Street in Acton. Following a search of the vehicle the police discovered marijuana, cocaine, Ecstasy and crystal methamphetamine. The driver was in possession of two prohibited weapons, a knife and brass knuckles, as well.

Charged with four counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking, two counts of possession of a concealed weapon and two counts of possession of a prohibited weapon is 27 year-old Joseph Saragaco of Poplar Ave.

Saragaco is being held for bail and as a result of the traffic stop on Monday, the Regional Drug Bureau assisted with a search warrant of the accused residence on Tuesday and found further evidence.



**DAFFODIL DAYS:** April is Cancer Awareness Month and canvassers will be out in full force selling daffodils to raise funds to help fight this devastating disease. Linda Neary (left) and Rena Arbic were at Blooms Away on Tuesday to start the official Cancer Campaign Kick-off. Daffodils will be on sale for \$7 a bunch or \$12 for two bunches. - Traci Gardner Photo

## Seven laid off at Purity Life

Slumping sales forced Acton's Purity Life Health Products – a division of Sun-Opta Inc. – to lay off seven employees recently, including four of who had been with the firm for more than 15 years.

"We hope that when the business conditions come back, we will be able to bring people back," said Purity founder David Chapman on Friday, adding a couple of people took early retirement.

Chapman, who said the length of the layoffs, will depend on when the economy rebounds, said it was not an easy decision to see staff go from almost every department.

"It's peoples' lives and we

feel very badly when we have to say goodbye to people. It certainly affects them," he said, adding the retailers that buy from Sun-Opta/Purity are cutting back their inventories because they are "fearful" of the economy.

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