

# GRAPE VINE

Since 1974, the position has been held by Burlington's fire chief, who recently retired.

Chief Cunningham said that as "Halton Hill's longest-serving fire chief," he has the necessary experience to do the job and that "everyone in the Region is in fairly good shape" to respond to an emergency.

## Halton Cable sold

Western Co-Axial Limited of Hamilton announced it has purchased Halton Cablesystems as of last Monday.

"We are delighted with the opportunity to serve the communities of Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Rockwood and Campbellville," says John Levy, president and C.E.O. of Western. "We look forward to offering our subscribers all the new and exciting cable services as we provide the best in total home entertainment."

Western's first change is to add CBC Newsworld to Halton's cable lineup. Newsworld is now available to cable subscribers on Cable 24.

Other changes will be announced once Western has assessed Halton's operations.

## Fire Chief chosen

Kudos to Halton Hills Fire Chief Bill Cunningham who is Halton's new Regional Fire Co-ordinator.

In the event of a major emergency it would be Chief Cunningham's responsibility to co-ordinate equipment and manpower resources to whichever Halton municipality needed them.

## Val Farrell still in coma

Acton's Val Farrell, struck by a van at a crosswalk April 12, remains in a coma in Milton District Hospital, where she was moved several weeks ago from a Hamilton hospital.

Val, a 19-year-old Acton High student, is in isolation because of a virus and mom Cheryl said Val is moving her arms and legs and sometimes she is able to focus on people speaking to her.

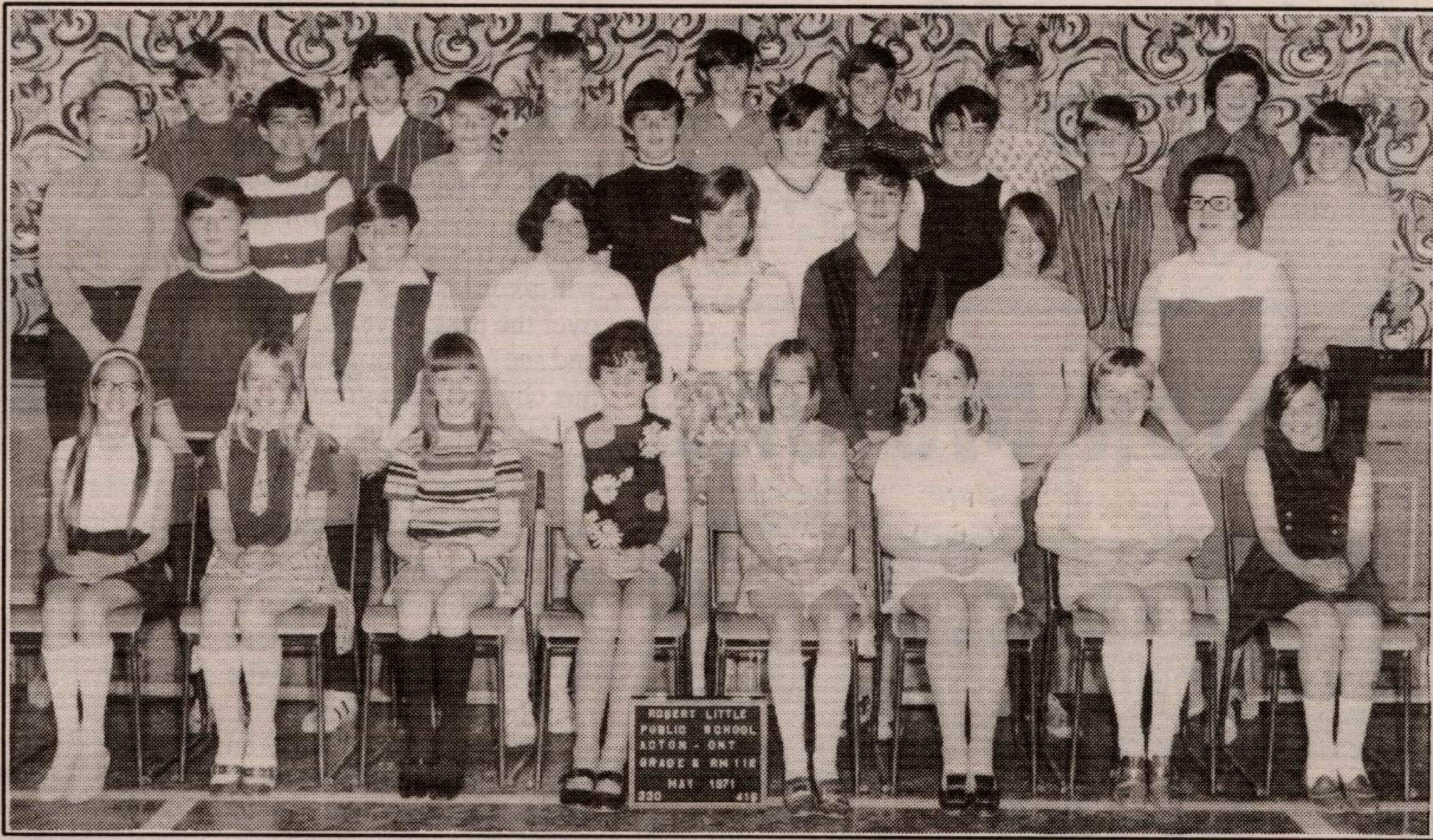
"It's a waiting game until Val comes out of the coma. It's been pretty rough on the whole family but we want to again thank people for their concern and best wishes," Mrs. Farrell said.

No charges were laid in connection with the accident.

## Graf to head Red Cross

Actonite Joe Graf, chair of the Acton blood donor clinics for the past several years, is now president of the Halton Hills Red Cross.

Joe was elected president May 28 at the annual general meeting of the Red Cross held at the Acton arena. The Red Cross also honoured many of its donors, sponsors and volunteers, including Em Finlay of Acton for her five years of service.



## CLASS OF 1971!

Look closely at this class picture of the Grade 6 class at Robert Little in 1971. Today, 25 years later, many of these students remain in Acton. In back row from left are: Fred Allen, Bill Romonovich, Kevin Payne, Ken Swan, Mike Morris, Marvin McNabb and Rich Jackson. Second row from top: Norman Paulsen, John Nessel, Steve McGilloway, Steve Matheson, John Galt, Eric Couture (late), Craig ? and Delphin Roach. Third row: Matt Spehar, Rick Van Fleet, Sharon Oakley, Joy Musselle, Brian Larsen, Ian Rogers (late) and teacher Mrs. Titus. Front row: Judy Scoyne, Debbie Uiterwyk, Colleen McGilloway, Kim McCristall, Kim Bishop, Janice McLaughlin, Kathy Adair and Kathy Landry. (Photo submitted by Norman Paulsen)

# Tories sabotage parents' rights

Recently, the Harris government passed Bill 19, also called the "Health Care Consent Act," (H.C.C.A.). The new law replaces the odious "Consent to Treatment Act," which I opposed when it was imposed on us by the Silly Socialists. You'd think, then, that I would be delighted that new legislation is forthcoming. Well, I'm not! I vehemently object to some portions of this legislation and, if you're a parent, so should you.

Under the new act, the school nurse or other "health care practitioner" can recommend and secure medical treatment for your minor-aged children, with or without the parents' consultation or consent. The new law proposes that the "health care practitioner" (whatever the hell that is!) is to be given the authority to decide if your child is competent to make decisions such as having an abortion or taking contraceptives. Remember now, I'm talking about under-age children here. But it's not just abortion or sexually transmitted diseases that are involved, as if that isn't diabolical enough in its own right.

Let's say that, for whatever reason, you want to have your kid immunized by your own doctor. Too bad! If the "health care practitioner" decides your child has consented, the treatment will be given and there is no obligation to notify you.

"By God," you say. "If anyone ever did that to my kid, I'd sue their behinds off." Wanna bet? I am told that sub-sections 26-27 of the act will combine to give a statutory protection and relieve "health care practitioners" of any accountability for injuries that result from any side-effects of their products and services. In other words, if something goes wrong and the child suffers long-term physical or mental damage, the parent is expected to pick up the pieces without recourse.

One of the problems with the Act is that it states "a person is presumed to be capable with respect to treatment, admission to a care facility and a personal assistance plan." There is no mention of minimum age in the Act. If some "health care practitioner" determines your 13-year-old daughter should get contraceptives, then she will, and you won't be told.

## The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



The "health care practitioners" will explain that this type of legislation is necessary to provide treatment to teens or pre-teens who are afraid to speak to their parents. Wouldn't it be a better scenario for these concerned professionals to act as intermediaries in a meeting between parents and child in cases like this?

If the parent showed signs of violence or neglect, other appropriate agencies could be called upon. Or is there another agenda here?

Before the statisticians in our midst rush to accuse me of fear-mongering and say that I should trust in the judgment of professionals, let me make my position clear. As a parent, I don't trust them and I don't believe them! I'll tell you why.

In 1992, our youngest child ("The Kid") was part of a school project called "Building Better Bridges." In my opinion it was pure, unadulterated psycho-babble and a waste of up to \$500,000 when you include Board staff time and facilities. This is not an exclusive opinion.

I could fill this paper telling the whole story of B.B.B. (which in business means bull— baffles brains), but the gist of the project was that it was a peer-counselling, anti-violence, parenting, social engineering type of exercise in stupidity. (Four years later and my blood still boils when I think about it.)

As parents, we were not told this project was begun. The first I heard about it was when I found my child sobbing her heart out late at night

and pleading with me not to send her back to school. Turned out she had been "counselled" surreptitiously by a Child and Youth Worker.

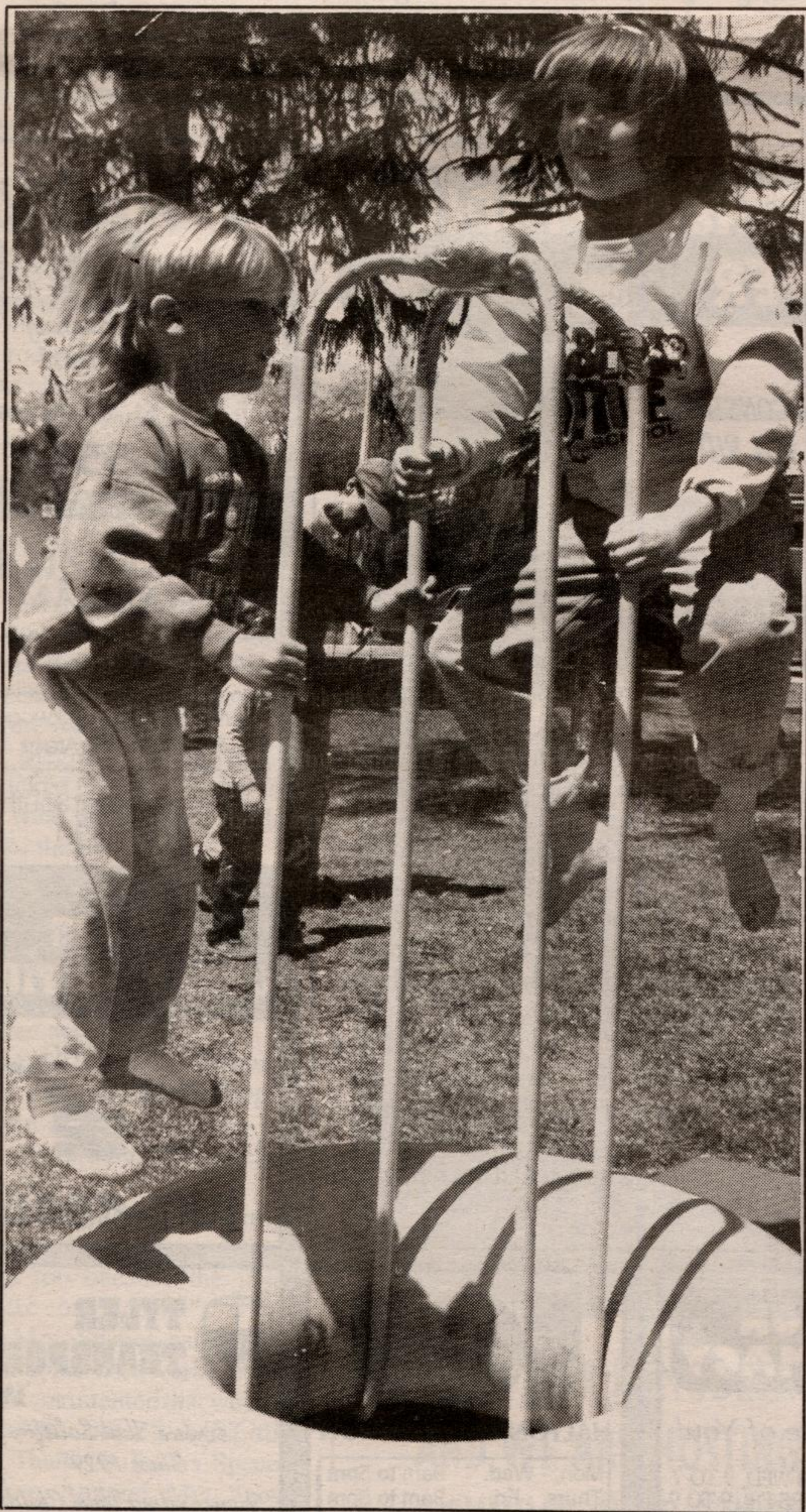
This person, who never contacted us to discuss our own child, was trying to impose her perception of proper social attitudes on our child. "The Kid" thought she was in big trouble because this "professional" called her out of class on several occasions. She had no idea what she had done wrong, but knew that only "bad kids" had been called out of class in the past. She was embarrassed and confused. For the previous six years she had been consistently described by teachers as a good person and pupil.

"The Bride" and I determined to find out more and quite frankly, after we did, there are a few "professionals" today who are lucky they still have their teeth.

We found out that the program started with no clear objectives because if they didn't, the money would have gone elsewhere. A public health nurse said at our meeting, that if our child's education had to suffer to help others, then that was a sacrifice we had to be prepared to make. I could go on and on. This is but one example of how quickly things go wrong when parents are usurped by the state.

Recently there has been an angry outcry over teen violence. "The parents must be held responsible" is a common theme. Fine — but then shouldn't the government stop passing laws that create situations where the parents are excluded in favour of strangers, whose motives are unclear and sometimes suspect?

Sure, there are bad parents, but most people would die for their kids. Sometimes you have to fight for them too. I think Bill 19 is such a time. Let's tell Mike Harris he can't have it both ways.



**BOUNCING HIGH:** Five-year-old Dylan Creasey and Jade Fronteddu, 8, enjoy one of the many fun activities for youngsters at the recent Robert Little Spring Carnival. (Eve Martin photo)

## Same time last year ...

Alex McKee, provincial Family Coalition Party candidate promises to dissolve the municipality of Halton Hills if elected ... Despite a petition by Dennis Gubenco and neighbours, General Committee members decide to install sidewalks in the Acton Legion's new subdivision ... Grade 6 student Cara McGilloway wins a Visions Canada poster contest with her poster titled *My Flag*.