



# THE HALTON COMPASS

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## REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

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## Cuts to funding damage Catholic Schools programs

Funding changes could spell end of autism centre in Halton

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

The Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) is grappling with a decision by the Ontario government to claw back in excess of \$659,000 from its special education reserves. The board, which has openly criticized the decision, plans to meet with Education Minister Gerard Kennedy to underline the difficulties special needs programming will face if the funding isn't reinstated.

The changes in school funding could mean not only a reduction in services available to students taking part in the board's special education programs, but also the possible closure of the province's first transition centre for autistic students. However, the province has stated that changes to special education funding were necessary because of an anticipated growth in the number of special education students across the province. Within two years, the province predicts the number of special education students will climb to 54,000.

**"EVERYTHING WE DO IN SPECIAL EDUCATION IS GOING TO HAVE TO COME UNDER REVIEW"**

John Fauteux, the Halton Catholic Board's superintendent, special education services, says there are plans to meet with the province sometime this month or next month. "I understand that he (Gerard Kennedy) has made contact with us and that within the next three or four weeks that there should be an expectation that we could present our case, but no official date has been established yet."

The Ministry made its first announcement about proposed changes to funding on July 28, but did not notify the board about the actual amount of the reduction until the first week of school. Mr.

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## Group opposes Flamborough quarry application

Meeting held in Campbellville

BY DONNA DANIELLI

It was standing room only at the Lion's Hall in Campbellville on Thursday September 23 as the Milton Rural Residents Association hosted an information session on a proposed quarry in Flamborough. The vast majority of the approximately 140 people that came out for the meeting were from the Milton and Campbellville area, curious and concerned as to how the proposed quarry will affect them.

A highly anticipated quarry application that sets out plans for an aggregate pit on the 11th concession was submitted to the City of Hamilton on September 20. The application proposes that 380 acres of land be used for a 30 year amabel dolostone quarry, a high grade aggregate used for concrete and asphalt. A further 150 acres have also been purchased by Lowndes Holding Corp although they are not at this time part of the quarry application. A proposed haul route for the quarry could

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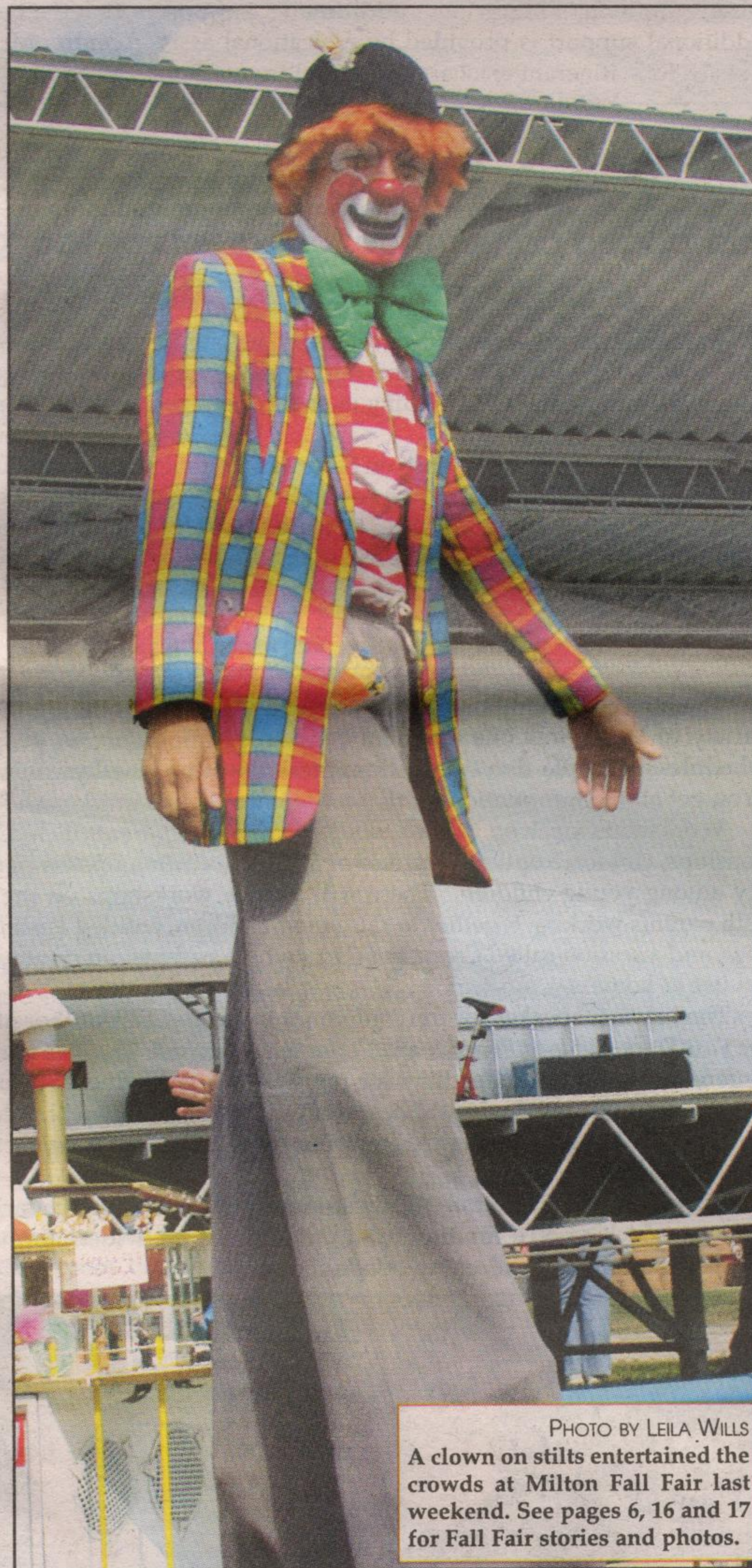
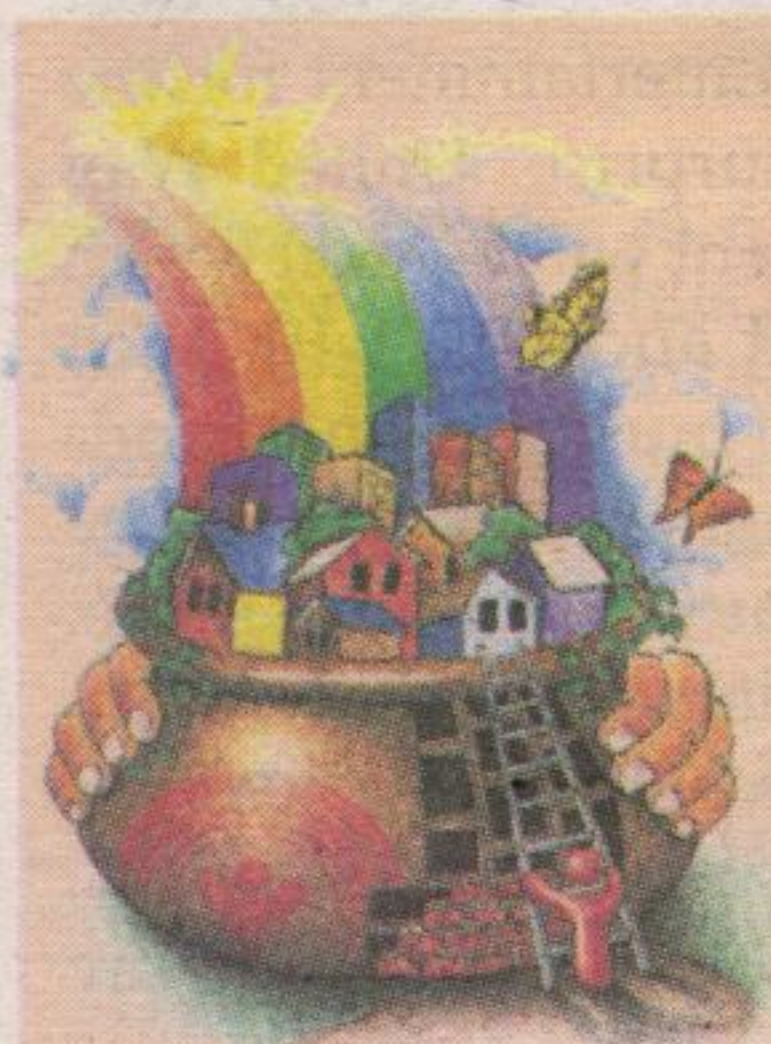


PHOTO BY LEILA WILLS  
A clown on stilts entertained the crowds at Milton Fall Fair last weekend. See pages 6, 16 and 17 for Fall Fair stories and photos.



The United Way of Milton  
presents  
**Neighbours Helping Neighbours  
Annual Dinner and Auction**  
Tickets \$60 (905) 875-2550

Friday October 15th, 2004  
Granite Ridge Golf Club

Reception & Silent Auction begin 6:00pm  
Dinner 7:30pm

