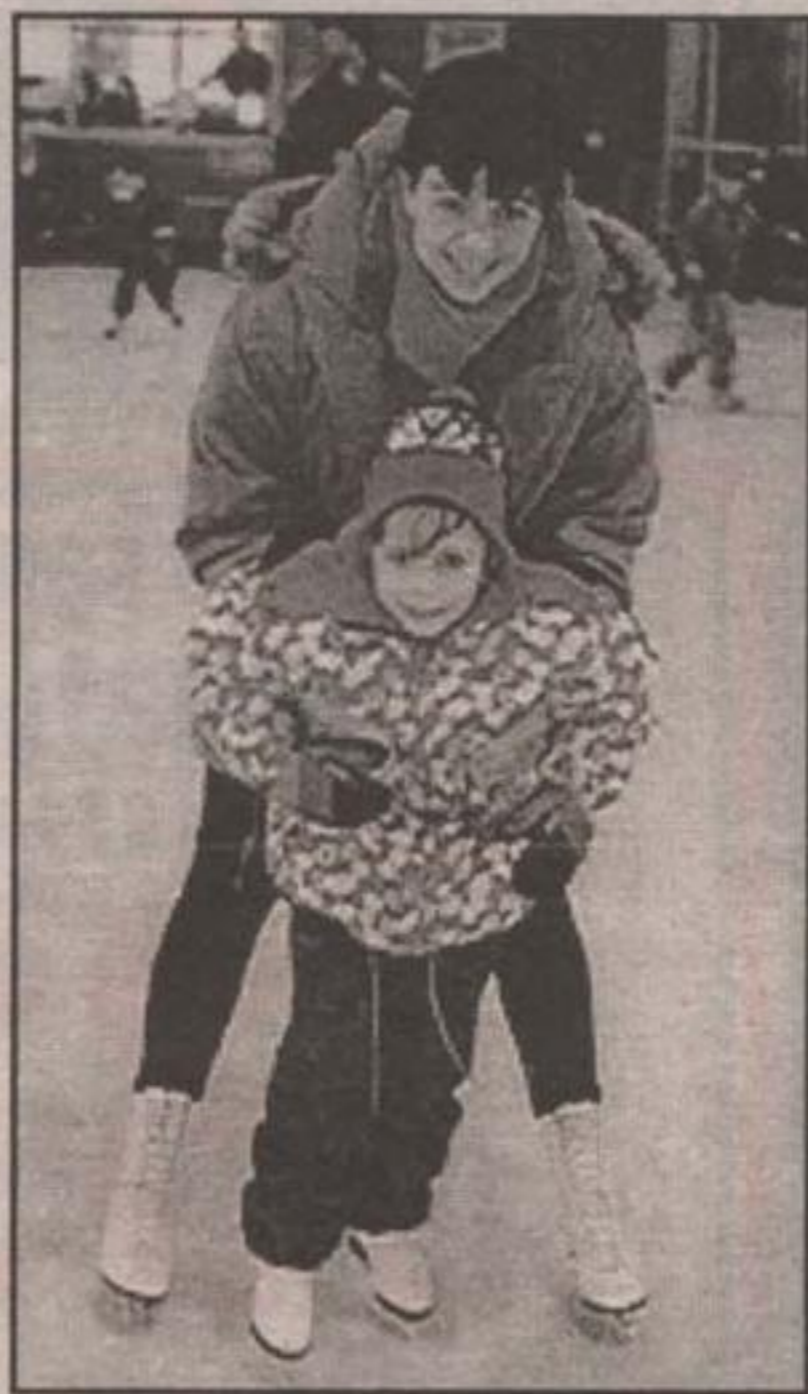


Fun at March 'break'



BALL HOCKEY BOYS: Chris Schiller of Acton deflects a shot during a ball-hockey game on Monday in the parking lot of the Acton arena, while Steve Barends (in black), looks on. The players, most of them members of the Acton Peewee I Rep Team took advantage of the balmy weather and smooth pavement for their daily pick-up game. - Frances Niblock photos



MOM AND DAUGHTER DUO: Kaitlyn Kauffeldt, 5, and mom Shelley check out the leisure pad at Acton arena during a March break public skating session.



THAT'S GOOD? Andrew Jackson, 10, and Melissa Brownlee, 10, both of Acton, checked out the sap pails on a trip to see maple sugaring at the Mountsberg Conservation Area near Milton. The pair were participating in the Acton Junior Y's Daycare program for March Break. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

KIDS' CORNER

March's many moods

• *March and war:* At one time, March meant preparation for battle! At the start of spring, it was the Roman custom. The Romans named this month Martius in honor of their god of war, Mars.

• *A different calendar:* At one time March was the first month of the year. And a few hundred years ago in America and England, March 25 was New Year's Day.

• *It is true:* After the first day of spring the days do get longer.

• *Japanese festivals:* A

festival for girls, called Hina Matsuri, is held on March 3.

This is the Japanese name for a special set of dolls which are very valuable — and not to be played with. They stand for the royal court of Japan.

These Japanese dolls are put on display in a special way: on shelves that resemble stairs. The shelves are covered with red cloth, and on the very top are the "emperor and empress." The ones below are the royal court members.



March trivia quiz

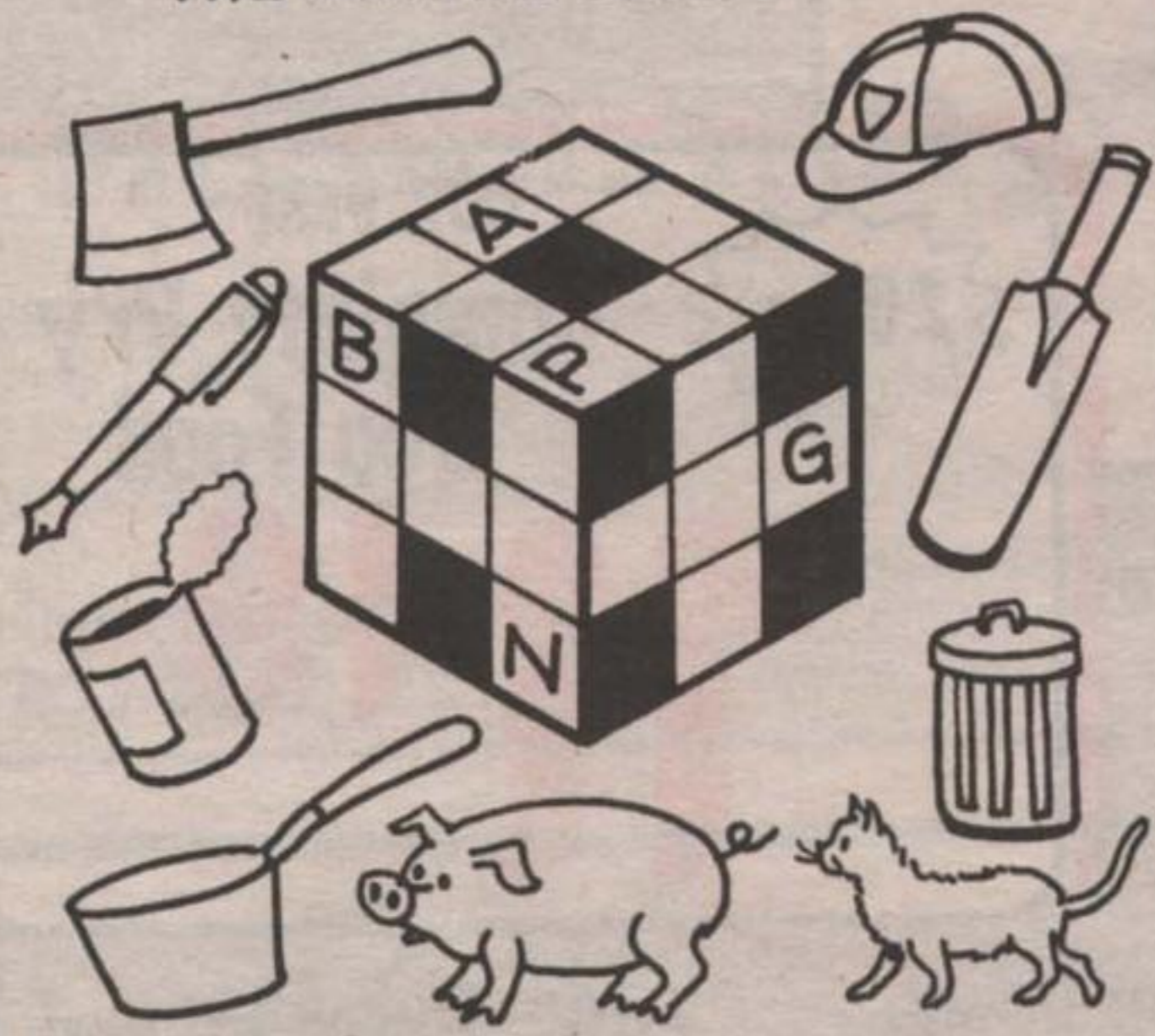
1. March is the ___ month of the year.
2. From what Roman god did its name originate?
3. At one time, March was the ___ month.
4. What day was celebrated on March 25 many years ago?
5. In the southern part of the world, March is the beginning of this.
6. This color is associated with St. Patrick's Day.
7. What is the green plant used in symbolizing the "wearing of the green."
8. March has a day set aside for ___ collectors.
9. The astrological sign of ___ is March 21 - April 20.
10. Birds that have been returning to San Juan Capistrano every year since 1779.
11. A four-leaf clover is supposed to bring this.
12. In March, 1863,

- ___ Crockett was killed at the Alamo.
13. March, 1812, was the first White House wedding. Who was president?
14. What a tract of land along the border of a country is called.
15. At this time of year, the Romans always went to ___
16. March ushers in a warmer, gentler time of ___.
17. According to folklore, leprechauns always did this to the "pot of gold."
18. Do the days begin to get shorter after March 20 or 22? (Yes or no).

- Answers**
1. Third 2. Mars 3. First 4. New Year's Day 5. Fall 6. Green 7. Shamrock 8. Moth 9. Aries 10. Swallows 11. Luck 12. Davy 13. Madison 14. March 15. War 16. Year 17. Hid 18. No

CUBIC CROSSWORD

SOLVE THE CROSSWORD BY USING THE PICTURE CLUES.



K3930001

DID YOU KNOW?

THE FIRST MAN TO BECOME AIRBORNE WAS JEAN-FRANÇOIS PILATRE DE ROZIER. THE FRENCH PHYSICIST WENT UP IN A BALLOON ON OCTOBER 15, 1783 BUT, IN 1785, HE WAS KILLED WHILE TRYING TO FLY ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.



THE NARWHAL, A TYPE OF WHALE, HAS A LONG, IVORY SPIRAL SPEAR. IT IS SAID TO STICK THE SPEAR IN FLAT FISH ON THE SEABED. AND THEN, AS IT SWIMS ON, THE FLAT FISH TURNS AROUND ON THE SPEAR UNTIL IT IS EATEN BY THE NARWHAL.



K3930003

Safety concerns on Halton-Erin boundary

Halton/Erin Boundary Road residents are marshalling their neighbours and circulating petitions calling for road improvements after being invited to appear at Monday's general committee meeting.

Mud is one of the residents' major concerns — they worry emergency crews might not be able to locate their homes because the mud has completely obscured the locators several times this year.

"Our bottom line is safety," neighbour spokesman Dianne Rainbow explained in an interview on Sunday.

"Our fire numbers, our emergency numbers, are not visible at all times because of the mud and the mud is so slick, it's treacherous — it's like driving on ice," Rainbow said.

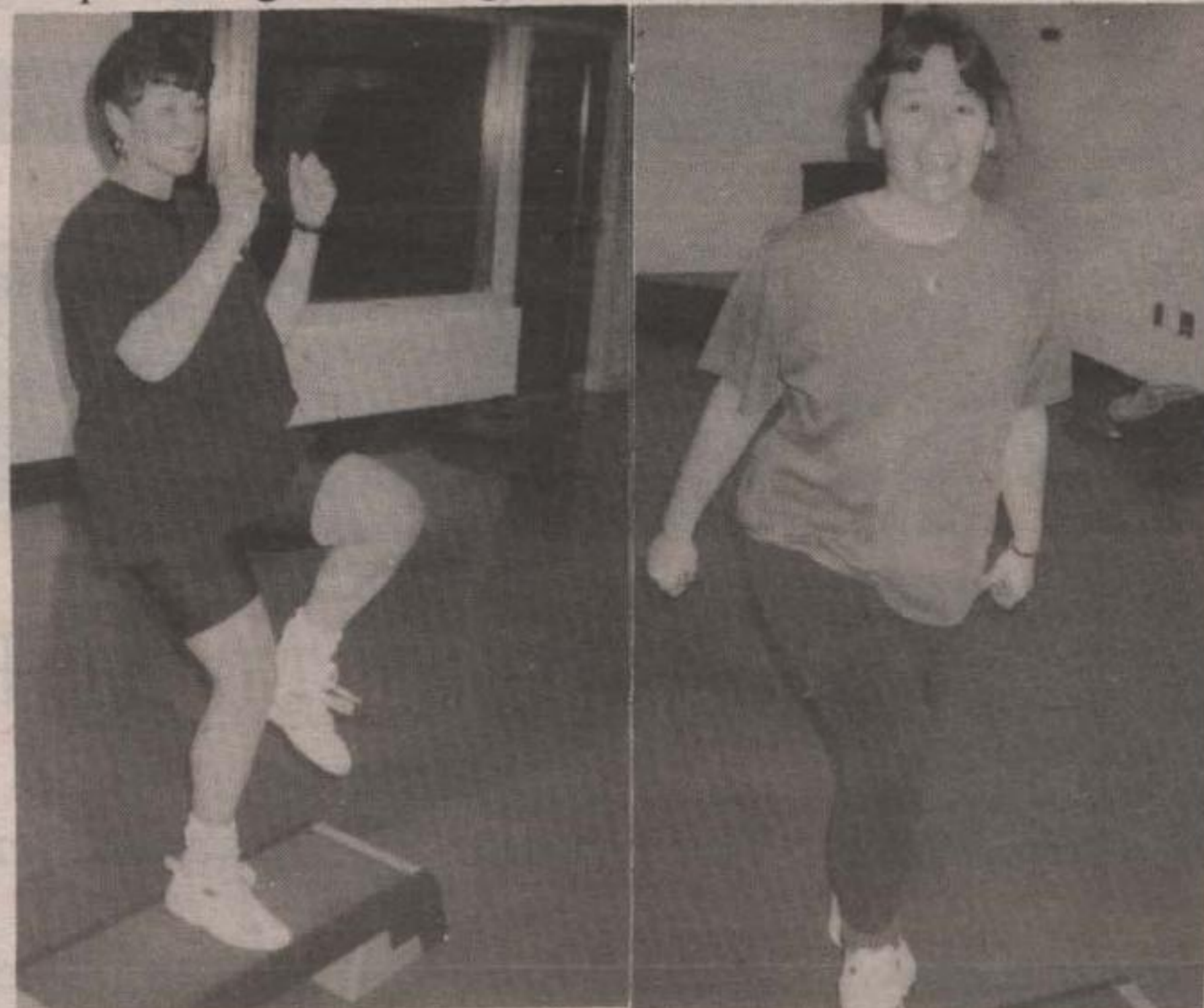
"I know that this is a country road, but it's not safe and so we want improvements. A grader goes by on a regular basis throwing rocks and freshly-laid gravel into the ditches — if the Town spent the gravel and grader

money to tar and chip the road, it would save money in the long run," Rainbow suggested.

A staff report in response to Rainbow's concerns about the condition of the road, also known as 32 Side Road, identifies spot improvements that will be done by the 2000, but not on the stretch Rainbow is concerned about. The budget forecast also calls for ditching improvements, gravel resurfacing and a new hard top surface treatment in 2006.

Rainbow also wants a three-way stop to improve safety at Churchill Road and the 32 Side Road but Town staff report that north and west corners of the intersection are controlled by Erin, which does not want a stop for southbound Third Line traffic because of the steep grade approaching the intersection.

At Monday's meeting councillors will also deal with a roads needs study which identifies which roads are in need of immediate work and suggests a repair timetable.



STEP IT UP: The Halton Hills Recreation Department's Step It Up program at the Acton Arena and Community Centre had some enthusiastic participants under fitness instructor Maureen Holmes, left. Wendy Spurrell, right was among those who attended session Tuesdays and Thursdays. A new session starts on March 31 at 7 p.m. - Ted Tyler photos