

Rockin' on  
in London

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Raiders clip  
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# The Independent & Free Press

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## NEWS AT A GLANCE

### Fowl thief strikes

■ Halton Police report 170 frozen chickens, turkeys, and rabbits, as well as salamis, canned goods, bed sheets, towels and undergarments were taken from the basement of a 10th Line home sometime early Saturday morning.

Entry into the home was gained through a basement window.

### House entered

■ Halton Police are investigating a break and enter into a Kingham Rd. house that occurred Friday between 6:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

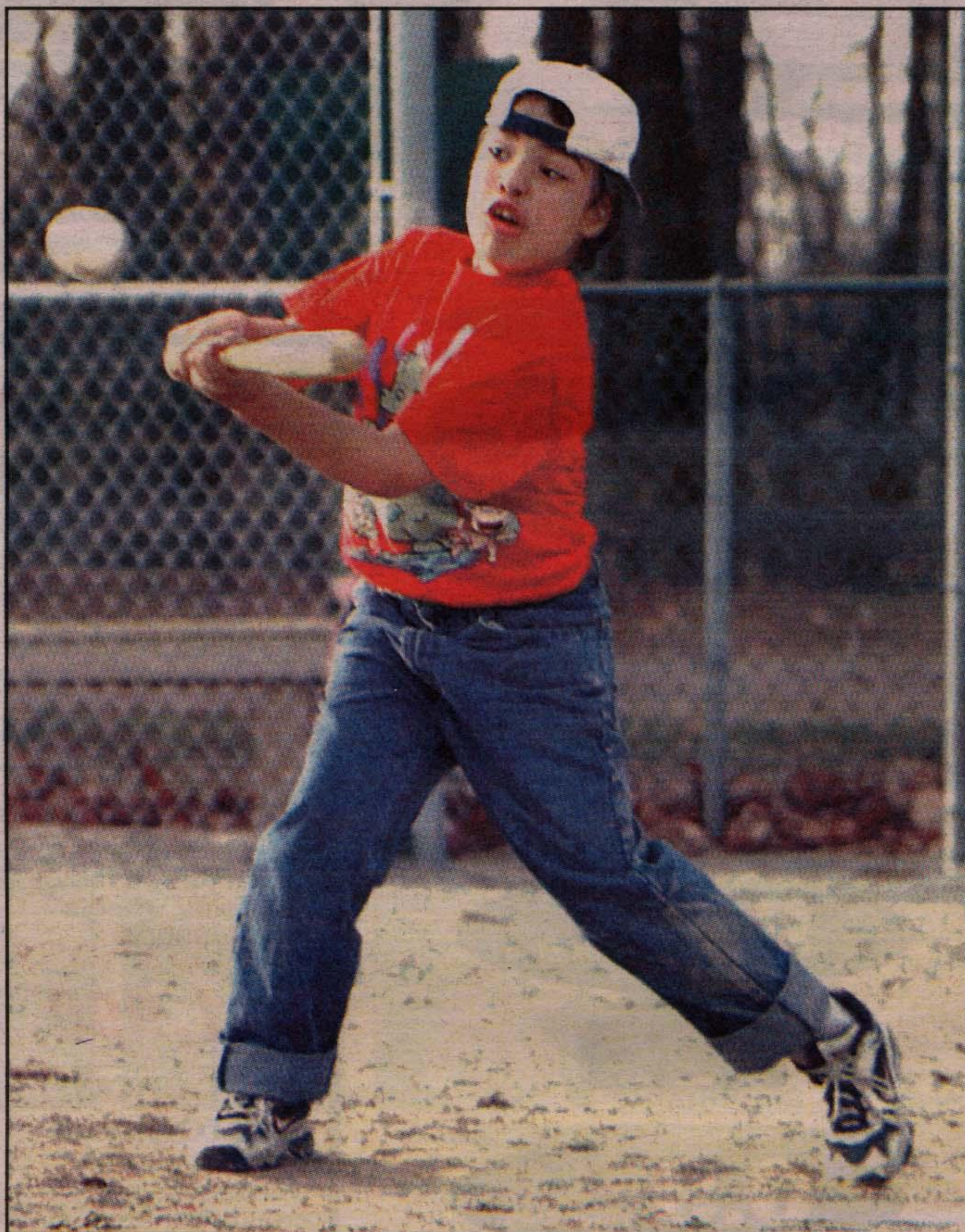
Entry was gained after a window was smashed and the front door was opened. Stolen was jewelry and electronic equipment valued at \$4,000.

### Trailer stolen

■ Halton Police are investigating the theft of a boat trailer, valued at \$1,250, that was taken from the rear parking lot of a business on Armstrong Ave. last weekend.

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**H**

While most sports enthusiasts have already dug the skates out of the closet, seven-year-old Reza Parker took full advantage of the weekend's beautiful fall weather to get in some final cuts at the plate. With his dad Mike filling the pitcher's role, Reza took batting practice at Georgetown Fairgrounds on Sunday. Don't worry Reza, only four months until spring training opens.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

## Biz tax change draws ire of region chair, chamber boss

More than 300 businesses in Halton Hills would benefit from a provincial plan to cap tax increases for commercial and industrial property—but 249 will see part of their tax decrease disappear as a result.

The province is implementing legislation that would see all business tax increases, resulting from reassessment only, capped at 10 per cent in 1998, and 5 per cent each in 1999 and 2000.

According to numbers released by Halton Region, 307 currently under-taxed businesses in town will pay \$1 million less in property taxes than originally billed by the region, and 249 currently over-taxed businesses will see clawbacks of \$806,312 on their tax decreases to help pay for the provincial rebates.

Halton regional council, which sets tax policies for all of the region's municipalities, had already approved a four-year phase-in of tax increases for business. Tax increases had been capped at 15 per cent in the first year. But the Halton plan was dependent on \$1.1 million coming from the province to help pay for the rebates—and now the province is refusing to honor that commitment.

"This change of policy is unbelievable," Halton Region Chair Joyce Savoline said in a press release. "We are in the 10th month of our 1998 budget and a week away from the last tax instalment due date, and the province has sent regional council back to the drawing board."

New tax bills will have to be sent to about 4,000 properties region-wide and about 2,000 of them will find that their taxes, which should have dropped under the Halton plan, have now gone up under the provincial plan.

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