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# The Independent Weekend Edition & Free Press

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## NEWS AT A GLANCE

### Man sought who helped worker

Halton Police would like to talk to the man who assisted construction workers after a man fell from the second floor of a Fernbrook home under construction on Davis Cr. Wednesday morning.

Waldemar Prokorym, 20, of Mississauga, died as a result of his injuries later that day. The incident is being investigated by police and the Ministry of Labour.

The man who assisted the construction workers should call Detective Const. Al Watt at 878-5511 ext. 2447.

### Youth honored

Jennifer Capstick, 14, of Georgetown is being recognized by Halton Region Safety Council for saving her younger sister Lisa from choking on a cough candy last January by performing the Heimlich maneuver.

Capstick is to receive a lifesaving award at the council's awards banquet on April 15.

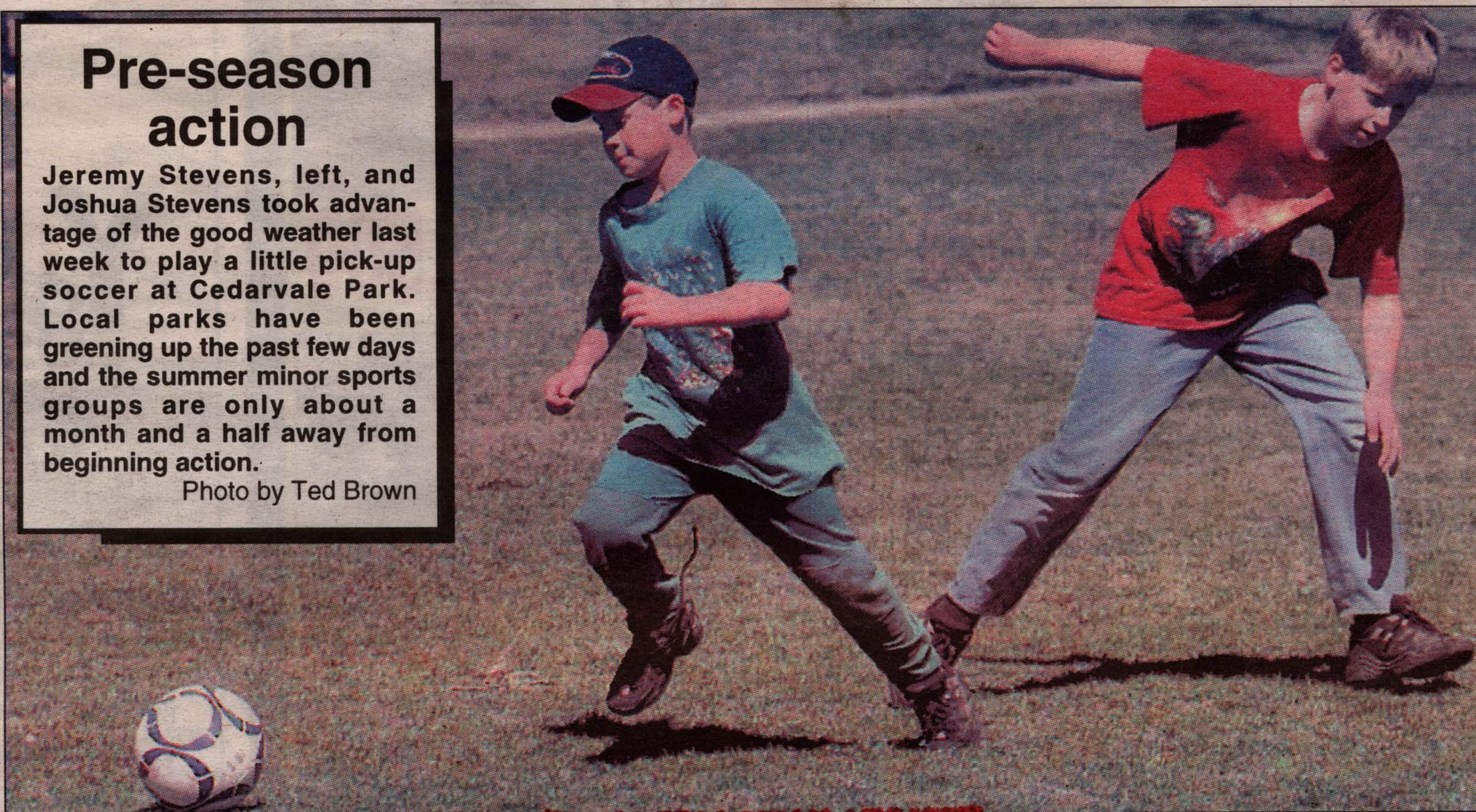
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## Pre-season action

Jeremy Stevens, left, and Joshua Stevens took advantage of the good weather last week to play a little pick-up soccer at Cedarvale Park. Local parks have been greening up the past few days and the summer minor sports groups are only about a month and a half away from beginning action.

Photo by Ted Brown



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GEORGETOWN**

# Georgetown must wait for new school

Georgetown may have to wait as long as four years for a new school after the Halton District School Board split its vote on whether to close schools in Oakville and Burlington.

Had the vote passed, construction on a new school could have started this fall. That now seems like a remote possibility following the board's 5-5 vote to close Fairfield in Burlington and Oakwood in Oakville.

Though the outcome was expected, Ethel Gardiner, board chair and Halton Hills trustee, was still disappointed with the decision.

"They (trustees) have disregarded the needs of thousands of in terms of accommodation," Gardiner said. "What will happen here is our existing schools will be tremendously overcrowded and there are a whole host of program problems with

overcrowding."

By voting to not close schools, Gardiner said the board seems content to hope the government will change its funding formula or to let the board's enrollment catch up with its capacity.

"If we wait for enrollment to catch up with capacity, staff estimates construction wouldn't start until 2003," Gardiner said.

Local parents were also unhappy with the board's decision.

"It's mostly disbelief that a group of people elected to answer to the whole region would vote in such an isolated way," said Valerie Pakkala, the school council chair for Centennial Middle School. "If they can't make that decision to be more efficient, then we don't have a hope."

One of the schools that was up for closure was Fairfield in Burlington. The school, with

space for 287, has only 106 students this year and currently has 84 students enrolled for next year, including only six in kindergarten. That leaves it at 30 per cent capacity. Had the school been closed, all of the students could have been accommodated at neighboring Glenview.

Trustees voting against closing schools noted the board hasn't completed all its studies. Some of these include a consultant's report on growth, plus studies on school boundaries and use of the board's administrative centre.

"I'm not saying never close a school, but only if I was getting all the information and there were no other options," said Burlington trustee David Bird. "But not now."

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