

Salute to
volunteers

Pages 8, 9



Classifieds
inside
real estate



Wolfpack
ready to howl

Page 14

The Independent

Weekend Edition & Free Press

50¢ (+ GST)

Serving Halton Hills

Sunday, April 18, 1999

32 Pages

17,700 copies

BRILLIANT GOLD
JEWELLERY

Designers of fine gold
jewellery and watch repairs



873-6662

GEORGETOWN MARKETPLACE MALL
(BY THE FOOD COURT)

NEWS AT A GLANCE

Stubborn fire

■ Halton Hills firefighters spent nearly four hours fighting a grass fire that extended across approximately 40 acres on the Sixth Line north of 22 Sideroad Thursday afternoon.

The fire started near a 45-gallon barrel that had been used for burning.

A fire department spokesperson reminds the public that a burn permit is required from the fire department for outdoor burning.

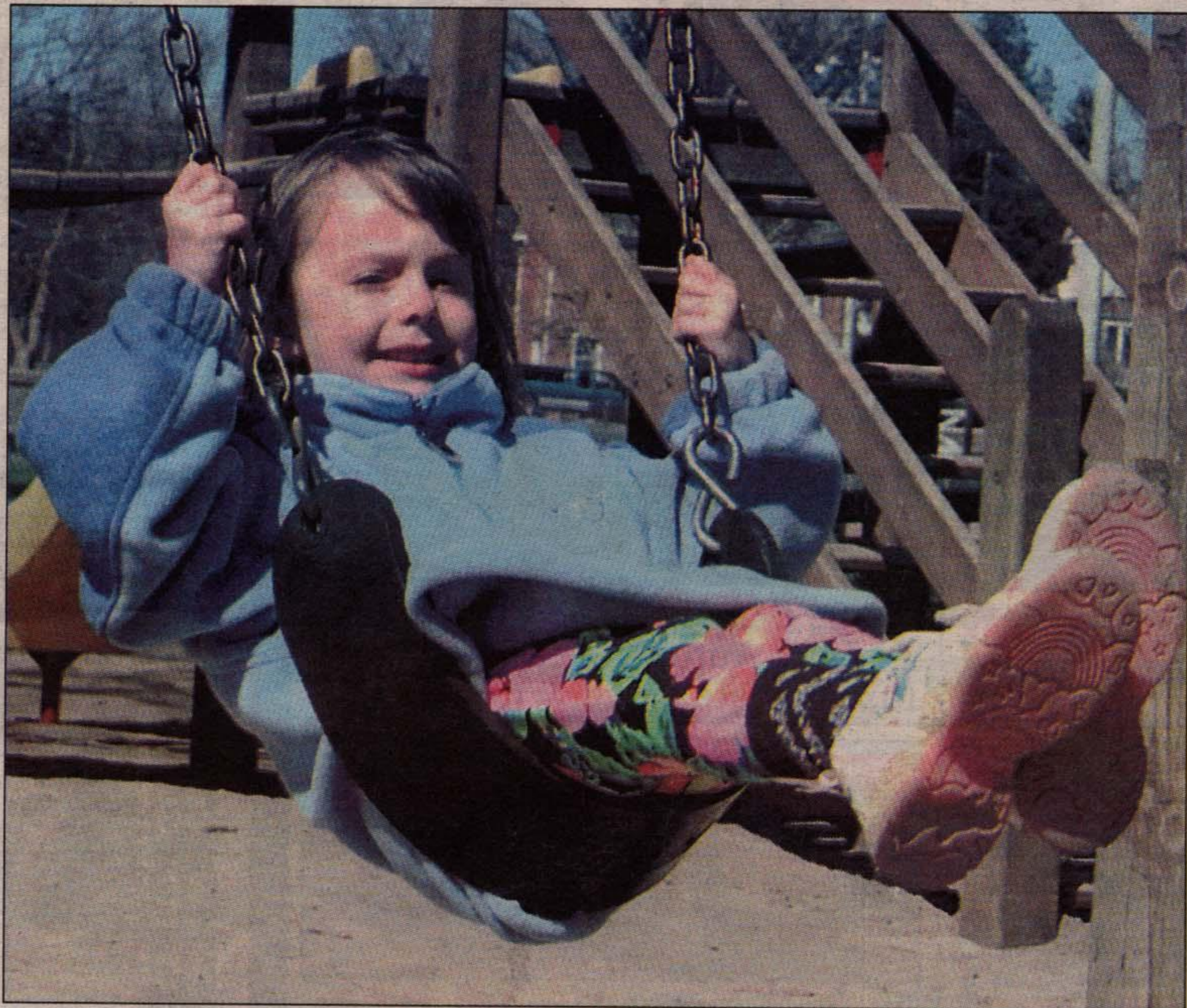
Fraud charge laid

■ An investigation by Halton Region Social and Community Services and Halton Police has resulted in a Norval man being charged with fraud over \$5,000 in connection with social assistance a man received, but wasn't entitled to, between August 1997 and July 1998.

Charged is Robert Lee, 55, of Norval. He is to be in court on May 10.

INSIDE

Editorial.....	6
A Ted Bit.....	7
Entertainment.....	10
Comm. Calendar.....	11
Sports.....	14, 15



Swing... and a miss

Niki McLean, 5, of Ballin-afad took full advantage of the brief sunshine we had this past week as she was high flying on the swings at Glen Williams ball park. Weather forecasters are promising a return to more spring-like temperatures this week after a weekend of cool, damp weather.

Photo by Ted Brown

Regional taxes to fall by 2 per cent

There will be some relief for Halton residents this year as they shell out about \$31 less in regional levies.

That's a two per cent decrease over last year.

The savings would have been higher without factoring in a previously passed regional utility rate budget, which increased by one per cent, or \$4 a year.

When it comes to property taxes alone, a newly unveiled preliminary budget showed the region has trimmed Halton property taxes by 3.1 per cent this year.

That boils down to \$34 for the average

taxpayer with a home assessed at \$185,000.

The cut goes beyond a regional council directive for staff to hold the line in 1999 taxes, or, at worst, only increase them by the inflation level.

"What we've provided you with is a budget that goes far beyond that direction," said Halton chief administrative officer Brent Marshall. "This 3.1 per cent reduction should be a good news story to our taxpayers."

These figures do not include the effect of municipal budgets, which have not all been completed.

Though the news may seem good, there are still some uncertainties, warned Joe Rinaldo, the region's finance commissioner.

"There's a number of services (for which) we still don't know what the impacts are," he said. "GO Transit is an example of that."

Varying reports give GO expansion an eventual price tag of between \$50 million and \$200 million. Currently, Halton is expected to shell out for 10 per cent of GO costs.

That percentage, which is based on total tax assessment, could rise with Halton's growth.

See REGIONAL, pg. 3

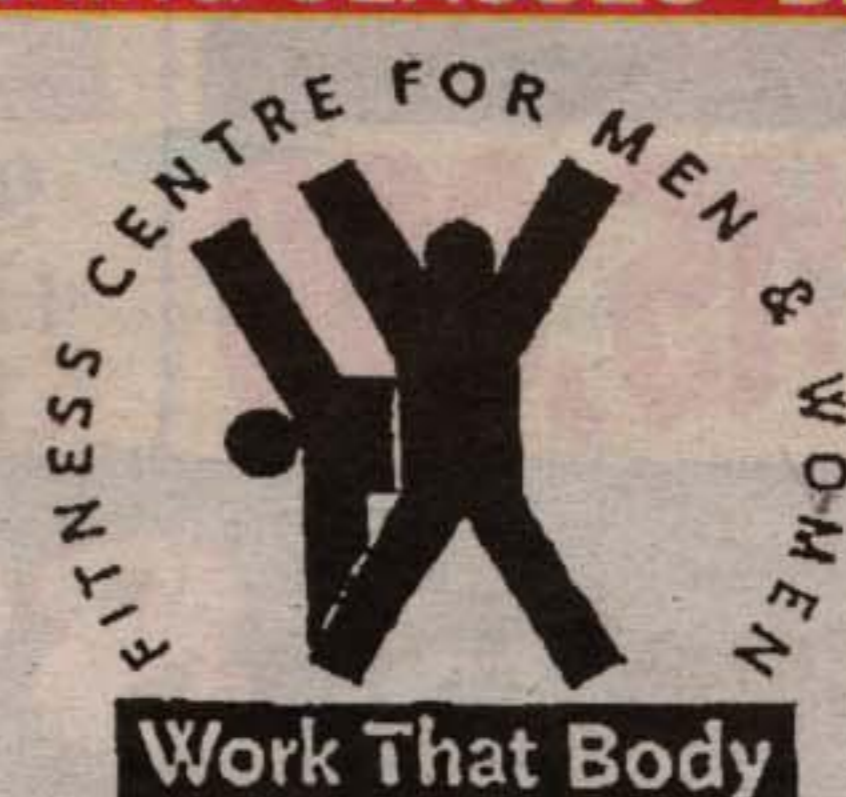
PHYSIOLOGIST • KINESIOLOGISTS • CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINERS • SPINNING CLASSES • BABYSITTING • ROWERS



**THREE
MONTH
MEMBERSHIP**

Join now and get fit for summer!
Adult and Student Memberships available!

- * Come in and check out all of our new equipment
- * Fully air-conditioned facility
- * Wood sprung aerobic floor
- * Come in and try out our New Aerobic Kick Boxing classes
- * Yoga, Indoor Cycling Classes, Step, Stretch and more....
- * 17 years serving Halton Hills



Work that Body
232 Guelph Street
Georgetown, Ontario
L7G 4B1

Phone: 905-877-0771
Fax: 905-877-8169

TREADMILLS • 13,000 SQ. FT. • FREE WEIGHTS • WEIGHT MACHINES • LIFECYCLES • COMPUTERIZED FITNESS ASSESSMENTS