

# Protect your children through streetproofing

The horrendous tragic events in Toronto have forced us all to think about our own children, and their safety. Because of their young age and innocence, people sometimes lure them with promises of candy or money, or use trickery.

It is difficult for the police to prevent child molestation or stranger abduction because it is a crime of opportunity. You can, however, streetproof your child and greatly reduce the risk the risk by going over a few points of safety with them.

- Explain to your child that a stranger is anyone that they do not know, even if he/she seems to know them. Never put your child's name on an item of clothing, backpack or lunch bag where strangers can read it.

- Insist that your child takes the same route to and from school. That way if they are late home, you know where to start looking. Encourage them to walk with other children.

- Tell your children that they should never accept a ride from any one, even someone who is known to them, unless it has been prearranged. The majority of child predators are someone who is

911/  
411



Const. Laurel Barnett

already known to the family.

- It is not appropriate for adults to ask children for directions. Tell your child to keep walking and not to approach a vehicle, if one is involved.

- Teach your children to scream, kick, bite, or do whatever they can if someone grabs them. They need to draw as much attention as they can. (This is a tough one, because we usually tell our children to be polite and respect adults.) Report any such incidents to police as soon as possible.

- Know where your children are. Insist that they tell you where they are going, and when they will be home.

If your child tells you that he/she has been approached or hurt by anyone you should support your child by saying:

I believe you.  
I'm glad that you told me.  
It's not your fault.  
I will do something about it.  
Often a child will not tell anyone about it because they do not know how to explain what has happened, and they are afraid of being blamed or not being believed.

Lastly, keep an open dialogue with your children, no matter what their age. They need to know that they can talk and be listened to. All kids, young and old, needs hugs and love. Our children are precious.

If you have any questions or concerns about these or any other police matters, contact me at 905-878-5511 ext 2120 or laurel.barnett@hrps.on.ca

—Const. Laurel Barnett is the  
Community Support Officer  
for 1 Division



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Ralph Plisek are  
pleased to announce  
their marriage which  
took place on  
April 15, 2003  
in Antigua. Manon  
and Ralph look  
forward to  
continuing building  
their blended family  
with Ryan  
and Shannon.

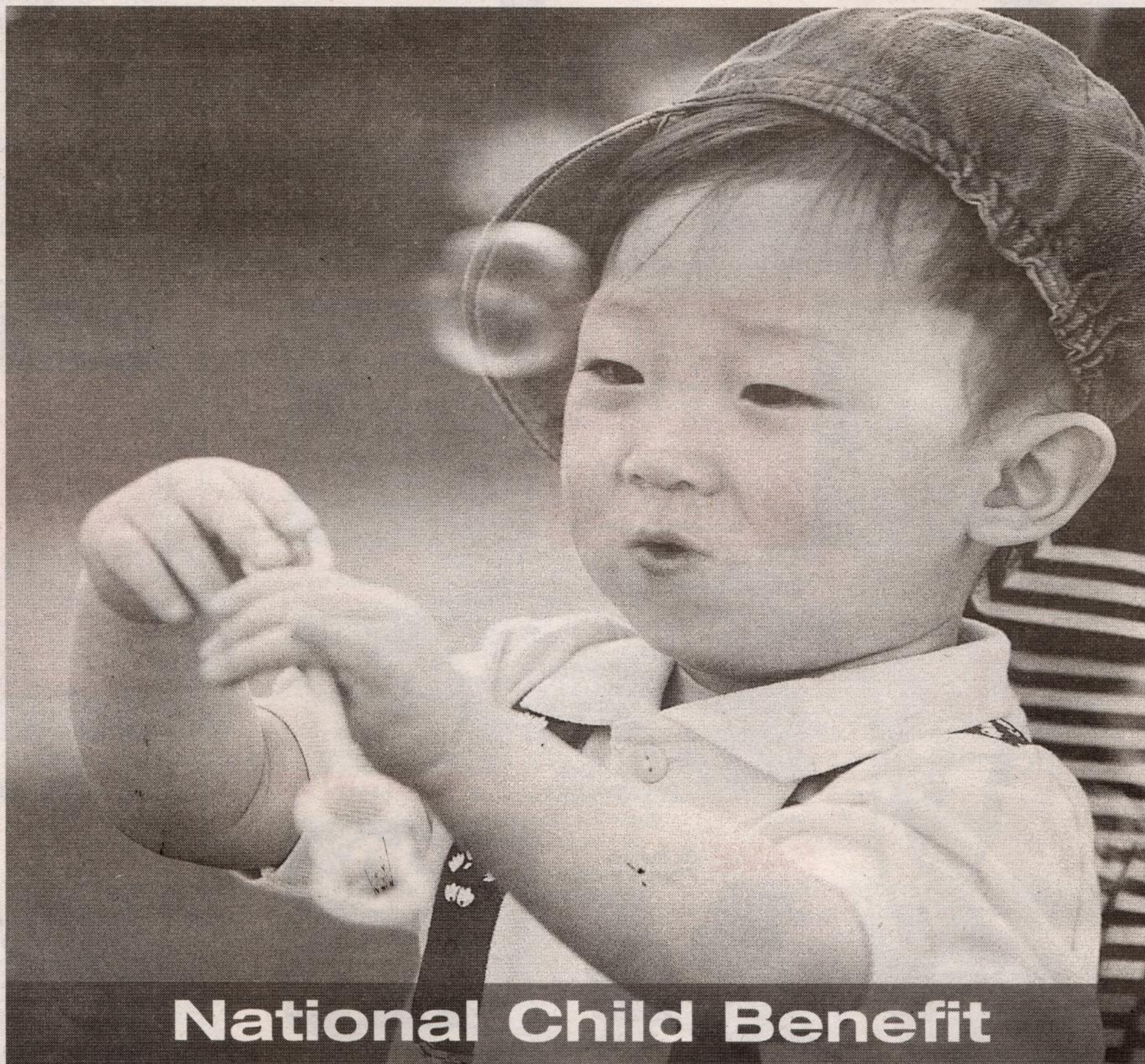
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CAROL  
IS  
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Love Ron, Tracey,  
Brandon, Cameron  
& Jordan

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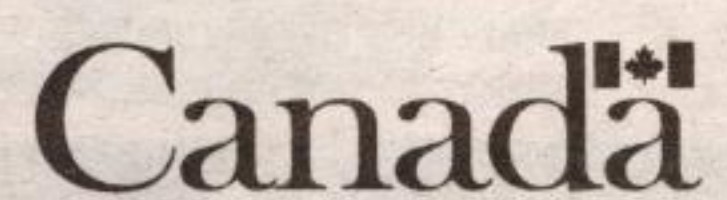
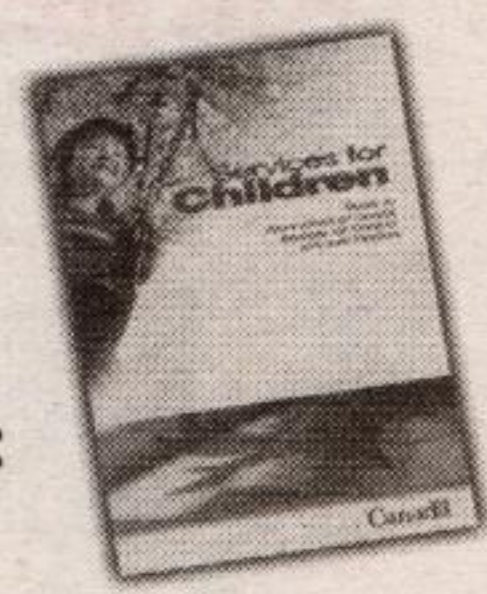


## National Child Benefit

For our children to be happy and healthy, they need many things. Some are free, but many are not. The National Child Benefit (NCB) gives financial support to low-income families. This helps parents work towards a brighter future for their children. And it also helps to reduce child poverty in Canada.

To find out more about all our services for children and their families and to receive your guide:

- ☎ 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)  
TTY: 1 800 465-7735
- 🌐 canada.gc.ca
- 📍 Service Canada Access Centres



Summer Soccer Camps

Soccer Development Model Academy is proud to announce the formation of its First Soccer Academy in the Halton Peel Region. Operating weekly from July 7th to August 29th, 2003. Programs are for all players ages 6 to 12. The camps will be focused on the "Development Model Coaching Methodology and curriculum.

Program Fees:

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Location:

On Derry Road, west of Trafalgar. Refer to our website for additional locations.



Register online: [www.sdma.ca](http://www.sdma.ca)  
or by phone: 905.875.3440

Soccer Development Model Academy

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