

# The Independent & Free Press

Wednesday, May 21, 2003 40 Pages Vol. 126 No. 8

50¢ (+ GST)

Serving Georgetown, Acton and surrounding areas

19,400 copies

GEORGETOWN



**HONDA**

Our new location is  
**NOW OPEN**

Call 905-873-1818 for details

## For elementary grades School board to adopt balanced school day

The Halton District School Board is going ahead with its balanced day timetable in most elementary schools this fall, despite the concerns of some trustees.

Board staff informed trustees at last week's public committee meeting that, after reviewing the results and feedback from a pilot project, it had decided to go with the new school schedule.

The balanced day, as it is called, provides three 100-minute blocks of instructional time daily divided by two nutrition breaks of 40 and 50 minutes each, one of which is to be deemed a lunch period.

The current, traditional school timetable consists of the mandated 300 minutes of instructional time with two recess breaks of 15 minutes and a lunch break of up to one hour.

Those exempt from the new schedule will be youngsters in half-day, everyday Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes.

Education director Dusty Papke noted at the board meeting that high schools, by their nature, cannot employ a balanced day schedule.

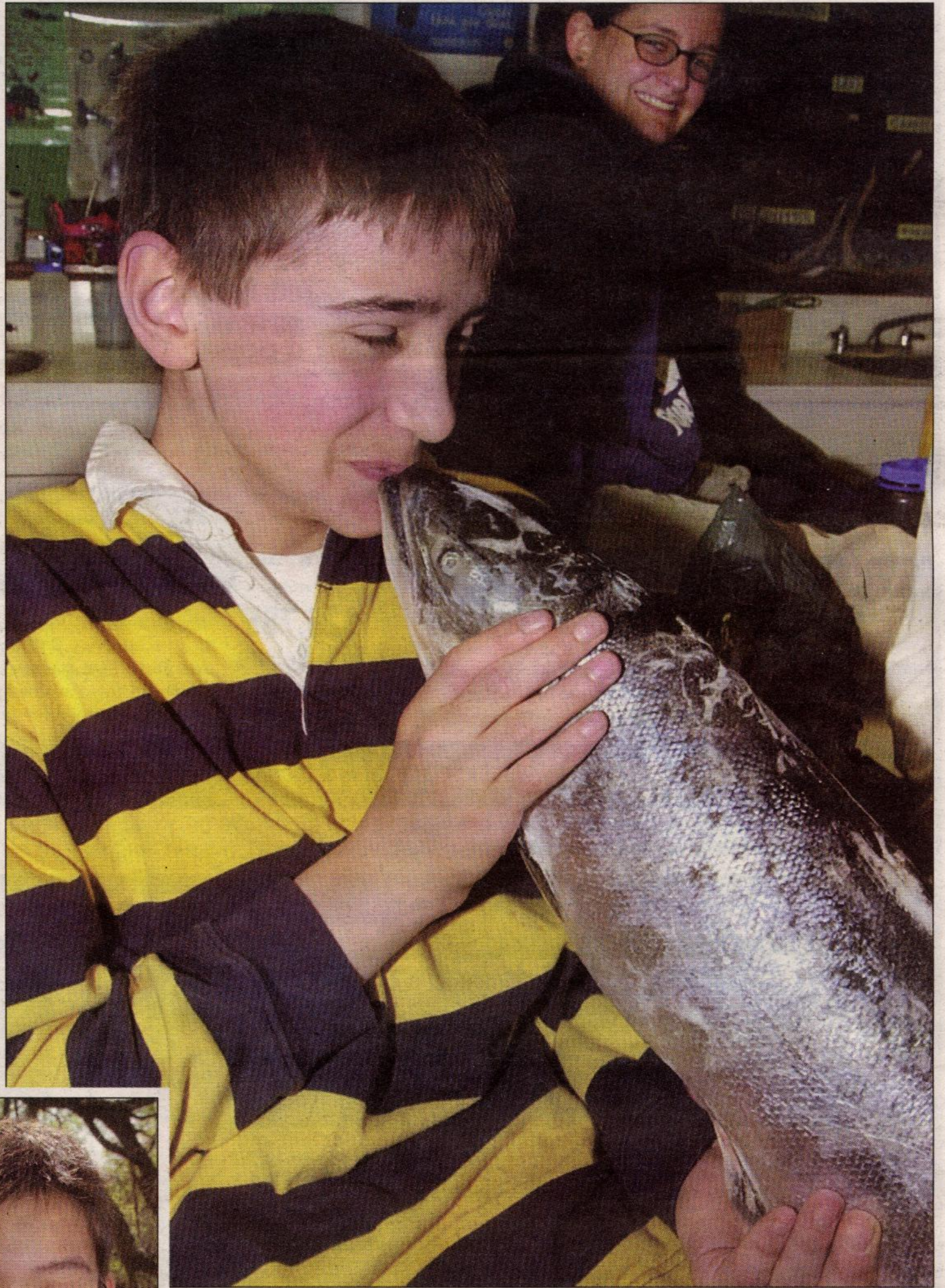
Eight public schools in Halton have taken part in the board's balanced day pilot project since the start of the 2002-03 school year including George Kennedy and Park Public Schools in Georgetown.

Proponents of the new schedule believe the major benefits to students and staff are longer, uninterrupted blocks of teaching time and the two substantial breaks each day for general exercise and intramural games as well as staff communication.

On the negative side, board officials have noted there may be difficulties in co-ordinating the timing of half-day staff professional development opportunities, scheduling part-time employees, getting parents/students to pack two snacks per day instead of one, and arranging office schedules in single-secretary schools.

Several trustees expressed a variety of concerns about the balanced day. Some doubting parents in the audience at the board meeting could be heard mumbling derisive comments about some of the answers given by board staff.

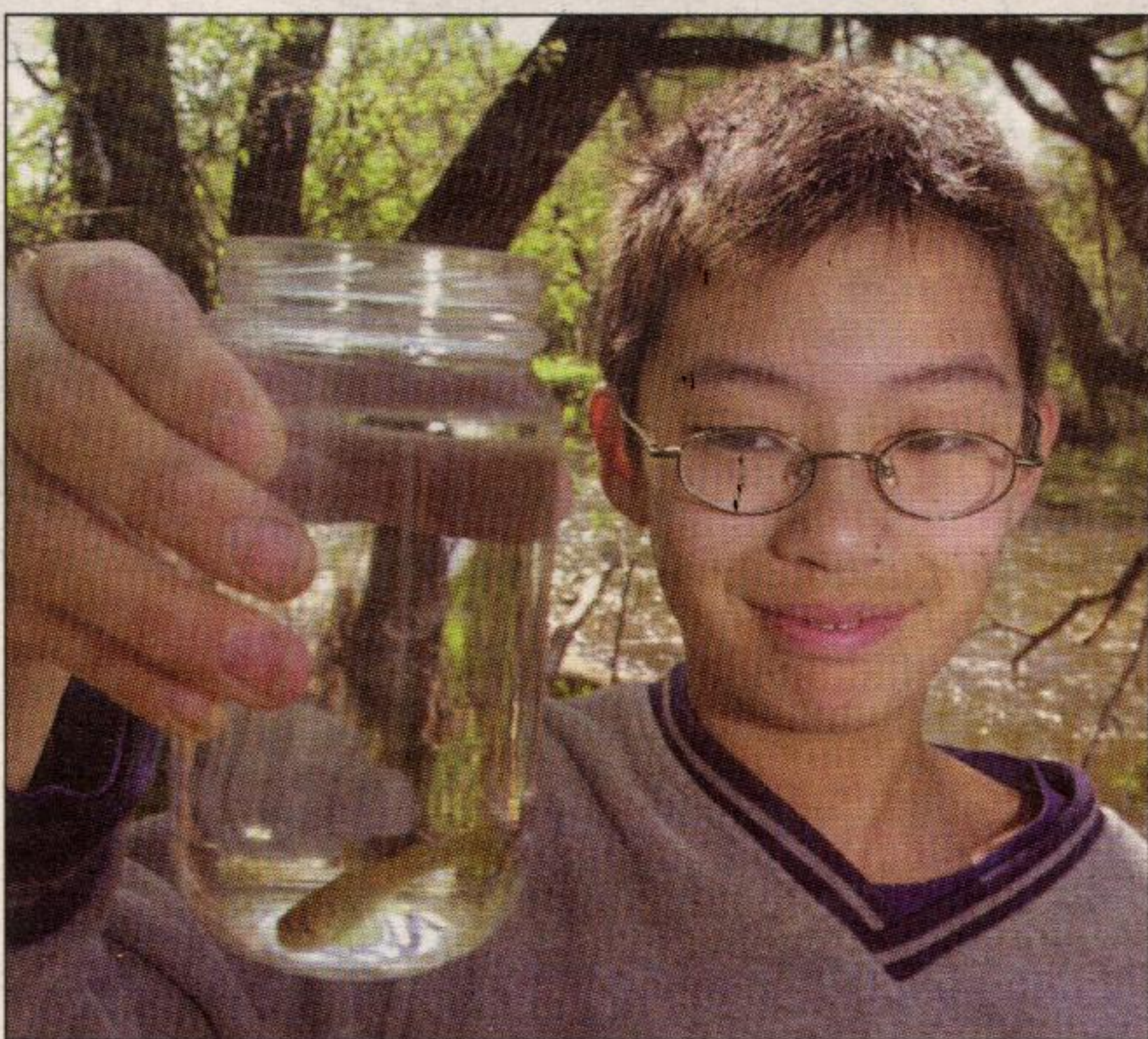
See HALTON, pg. 3



## A kiss is just a fish, er, kiss

Much to the enjoyment of his colleagues, Grade 6 student Mick Malowany, 11, (above) took part in the ritualistic 'kissing of the salmon' at Upper Canada College in Norval last week as a group of area students took part in a salmon release into the Credit River as part of the college's outdoor education program. At left, Adrian Lee, 12, checked out the eight-week-old salmon fry before it was to be released.

Photos by Ted Brown



Bang-o-Rama fun...  
pg. 4



### INSIDE

Editorial.....	6
Ted Chudleigh.....	7
Students of Excellence...	14, 15
Sports.....	16, 17
Entertainment.....	21
Classifieds.....	22-25

**Mazda**  
SPRING  
BREAKTHROUGH  
SALES EVENT

Featuring  
The All New  
2004 Mazda6

You are invited to your award winning dealer to test drive any of our award winning lineup ...

COMPETITIVE BY NATURE. SUPERIOR BY DESIGN.  
INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW 2004 MAZDA6

All 2004 Mazda6s come with an impressive list of standard equipment:

- 2.3L 160HP 4 Cylinder or
- Available 3.0L 220HP V6 Engine
- Power Windows
- Power Heated Mirrors
- Cruise Control
- Power Locks / Keyless Entry
- 4 Wheel Disc Brakes / ABS Brakes w/EBFD
- Electronic Traction Control
- 16" Wheels
- AM/FM CD Stereo w/6 speakers
- Front Double Wishbone Suspension
- Rear E-Type Multi Link Suspension
- Engine Immobilizer
- 60/40 Rear Seats w/one touch action
- Tilt / Telescopic Steering
- Outside Ambient Temperature Indication
- ...plus much more

Starting at only **\$24,295\***

So Many S Curves.  
So Little Time.



2004 Mazda6s are  
now in stock.

**Achilles**



357 Queen St. (Hwy 7)  
Acton, ON  
519-853-0200  
info@achillesmazda.ca

\* Plus Freight/PDE and Taxes. Call for details