



## Do you have it in blue?

It would seem Rebecca Fischer, 3, took a bit of convincing about a new winter coat from mom Amanda as they shopped at the craft sale in Georgetown MarketPlace last week. The week-long sale featured numerous hand-crafted items of clothing and home decorating items to please the most discriminating buyers.

Photo by Ted Brown

## Same-sex marriage 'a matter of human rights'

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"I see that it shows same-sex relationships deserve the same respect as opposite sex relationships," said Coverdale. "It gives the gay community equality and affects no one else's rights."

Halton Hills resident Deborah Eaton-Kent, who has a same-sex partner, and would like to get married, says the issue is a matter of human rights.

"Until our right to choose to marry is recognized we are not equal in the eyes of the law or society," Eaton-Kent said earlier this year to a House of Commons committee considering the issue.

Pastor Mark Verbruggen of Georgetown Christian Reformed Church said speaking for himself and his church "we do not support the redefinition of marriage."

"Theologically we could not conduct same-sex marriages because we believe such relationships are immoral according to biblical standards," he said.

Father Peter Hundt of Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church said his church also does not support same-sex marriages.

"We believe marriage is between one man and one woman for life," said Father Hundt. "We call everybody to chastity within that context."

Minister Ross Leckie of St. Andrews and Ballinafad United Churches sees the issue as a "legal matter that has to do with the Charter

of Rights."

"Each congregation will need to make a decision when they're asked to perform a same-sex marriage," said Leckie. "The congregation would likely go through a learning process and decide whether or not they wish to ask their minister to perform such marriages."

Pastor Patrick Timney of Georgetown Alliance Church said, as a church, they are opposed to redefining marriage.

"We believe, based on the definition and the boundary the Bible sets for what marriage is, it is a sacred covenant between a man and a woman," he said.

In a press release sent to *The Independent & Free Press* by Pastor William Gillissie of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Georgetown recent reports claim that, along with other mainline churches, Lutherans have spoken in favour of the government's same-sex marriage legislation and the redefinition of marriage, however, that is not the case for all Lutherans.

He said at its national convention last year Lutheran Church-Canada adopted a resolution "affirming the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

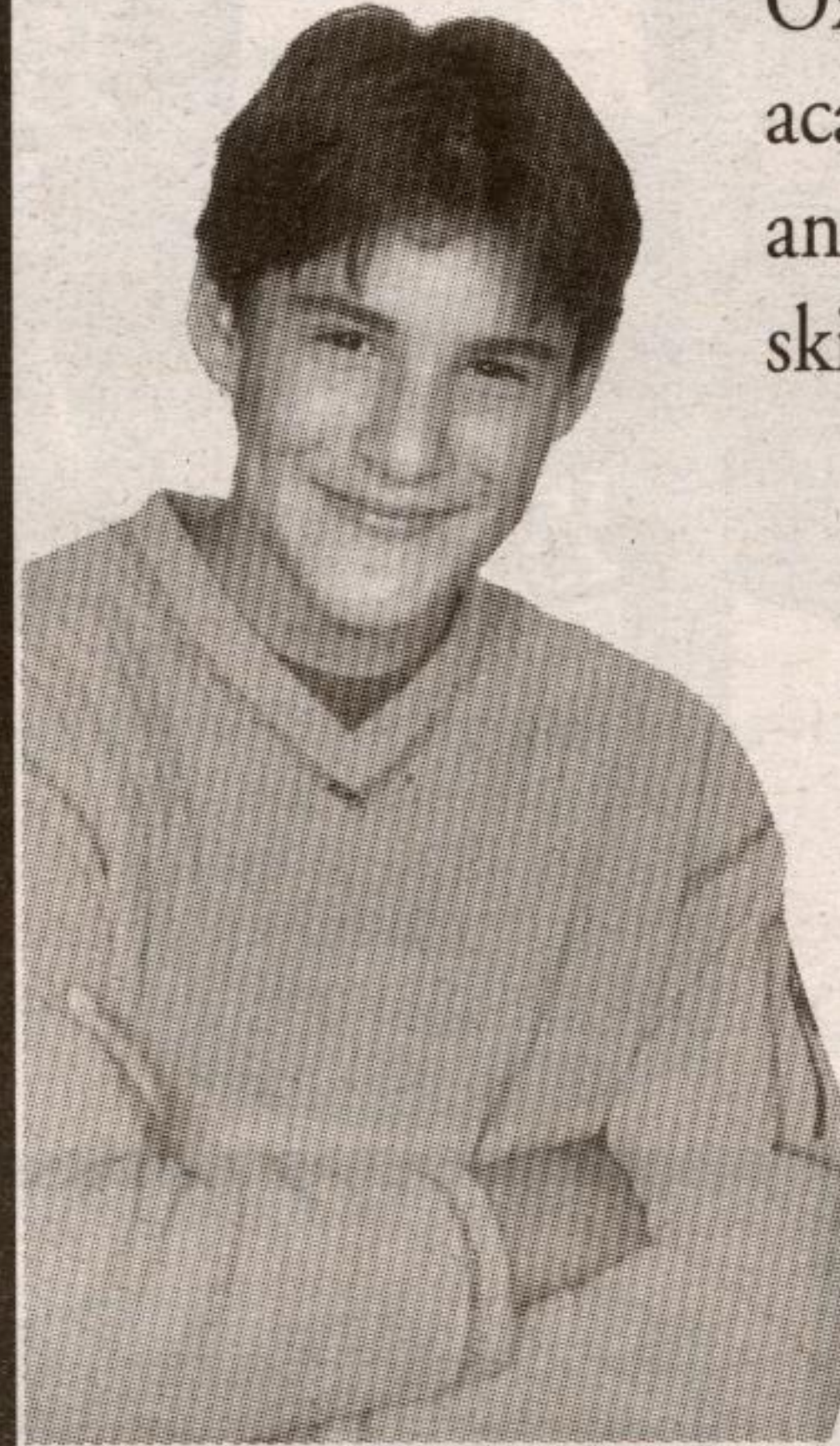
"All major religions have a similar position regarding marriage and the family, a reality which those who provide leadership in our multi-cultural country must not ignore," said Lutheran Church-Canada president Reverend Dr. Ralph Mayan in the release.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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