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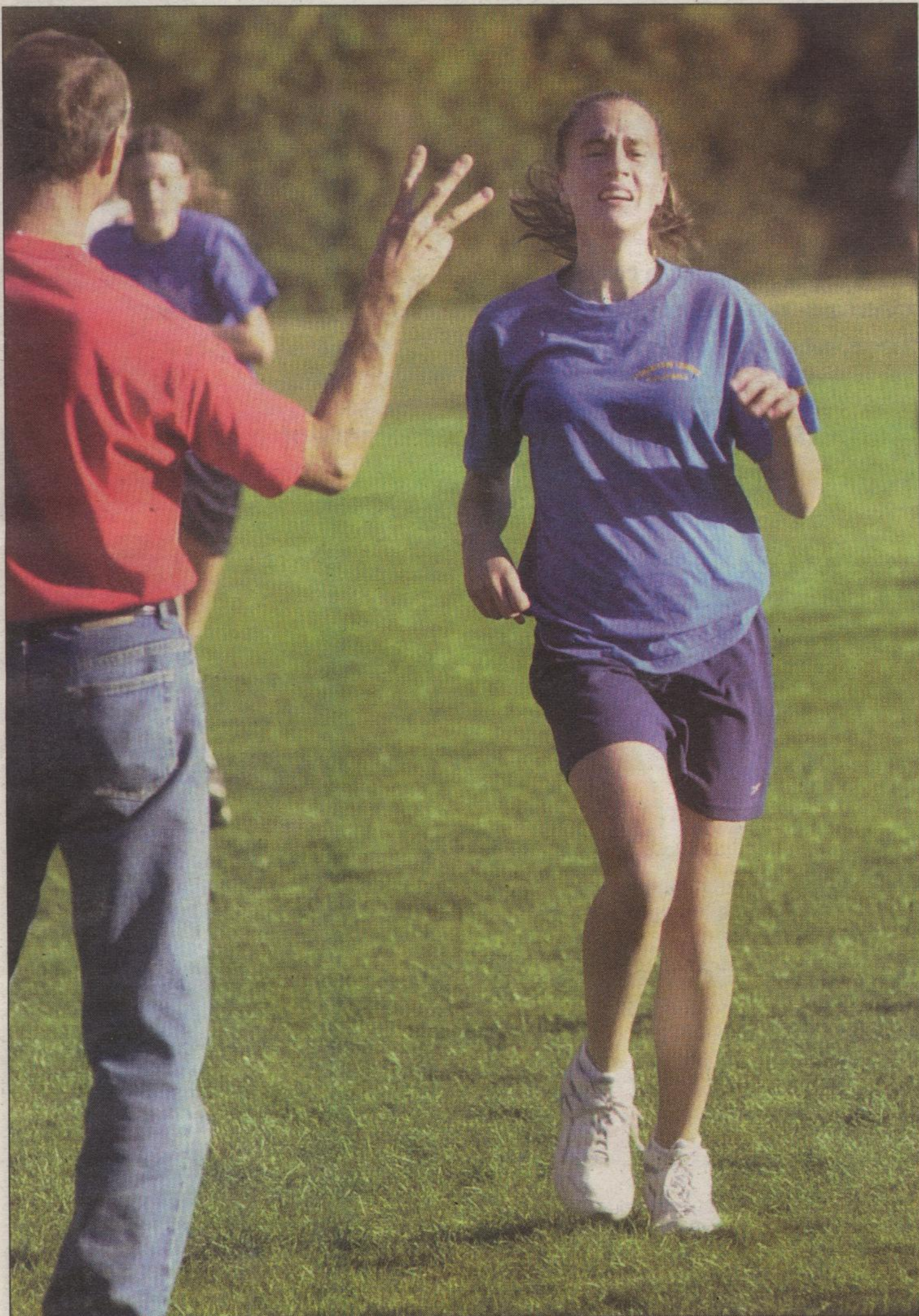
## Weekend Edition

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### Crossing the finish line

Stewarttown's Chelsea Jensen shows the strain after a long race as she crosses the finish line at the Optimist Club Cross-Country Race at Cedarvale Park Wednesday. Jensen finished third in the 13-year-old girls race. See details on pg. 19. Photo by Herb Garbutt

## Teenagers sign up supporters Petition opposes possible bike ban in Hungry Hollow

Three teenage girls, wearing bicycle helmets and bearing a 296-signature petition, asked Halton Hills council not to ban bicycles in the Hungry Hollow ravine, at Monday's council meeting.

"My friends and I and many others that we know who live on our street and go to our schools are very disappointed that you are even considering banning bikes in the ravine," said Becky Fukumoto, spokesperson for the three. "We would really like you to reconsider this."

Becky and her friends Rachel Hand and Tegann Dixon presented council their petition with names gathered in just three days. In the public gallery, supporting the girls, were about 30 people, from school age to seniors.

This summer Halton Hills council approved the Hungry Hollow management plan. In that document, staff recommended the banning of bicycles throughout the environmentally sensitive ravine.

"Clearly if we were to hold fast with the environmental message of protecting and enhancing what's there then we would have an issuing of controlling cyclists where we clearly don't want them," said Parks manager Warren Harris, when presenting the plan to councillors in August. "We're concerned about the width of the trail (eight feet) required to provide safety for dual use," he explained, adding that the majority of the public who commented on the plan pre-

ferred a 'Bruce Trail model' — a narrow trail (five feet at most).

However, a member of the Halton Hills Off Road Bicycling Association (HHORBA) Ken Kopke objected to the recommendation, and asked council to give time to work out a solution.

Council had agreed to defer the section on the bike ban until parks staff met with the trail master plan committee, HHORBA, a trails designer and the Town's Environmental Advisory committee to discuss the issue further.

Monday night, Director of Recreation Terry Alyman said the first meeting was held on Sept. 23.

"There was an informed discussion and we've narrowed it down to a few possible solutions, but there is still some investigative work that is still required to be done by some of the stakeholders to provide staff some precedent on shared use trails, trail widths and some liability issues and so on," he said.

Once the issues have been resolved, Alyman will report back to council, likely before the end of this year, he said.

Pamela Hand, mother of Rachel, told councillors, as a frequent walker in the ravine, bicyclists and hikers have been able to share the narrow trail within the

See PROPOSED, pg.11

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