

# Journey described as calm, gentle and affectionate

● Continued from page 32

police. Mendelson says they have "free rein" to touch Journey.

"She's the first Dog Guide who should have a sign that says, 'Touch me.'"

Mendelson said she worked with Journey every weekday, spending about one-1 1/2 hours each day with her, among the eight-10 Dog Guides at one time that she helps train.

As far as Journey's attributes, Mendelson said, "We picked her specifically for her temperament - calm, gentle, affectionate, intuitive and a quick learner."

"It's been a great learning experience" for her, said Mendelson. "Hopefully she'll be helping hundreds of people."

She said Journey's foster family "did an amazing job" with her.

Bonnie Gagnon, who fostered Journey with her husband, was at the hand-

off of Journey from the Lions Foundation to Halton police.

They hadn't seen each other for a couple of months but when Journey saw Bonnie the normally docile dog jumped excitedly and swirled around Bonnie's feet.

"It's lovely to see her remembering (me)."

Bonnie said being a support dog is a natural role for Journey.

"It's so her personality. I guess all those nights snuggling up with her paid off."

Clark said Journey will have her own office and bed on police grounds and will go home at night with her civilian police handler.

"I think every (police) victim services unit should have one," she said of a support dog.

Clark noted that in this area only Toronto, Brantford and Niagara police have one.

It is not cheap to train a Dog Guide. Each one costs

## LIONS FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

The Support Dog Guide is the newest and seventh program for the Lions Foundation. The other six are: Canine Vision Dog Guides - for people who are blind or visually impaired; Hearing Dog Guides - for people who are deaf or hard of hearing; Service Dog Guides - for people with a physical disability; Seizure Response Dog Guides - for people with epilepsy; Autism Assistance Dog Guides - for children (aged three-12) on the autism spectrum; Diabetic Alert Dog Guides - for people who have Type 1 diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness.

an average of \$25,000 to train, but they are provided free to qualifying Canadians.

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides receives no government funding and relies solely on donations from individuals, corporations and fundraisers.



Nikki Wesley/Metroland

Service dog Journey, the newest member of the Halton Regional Police Victim Services Unit.

More than 2,700 Dog Guides of various abilities have been placed with people across Canada.

Clark said \$5,000 raised by the Canadian Security Association at a golf tour-

namment will be donated to the Lions Foundation.

As for Journey's ongoing costs, like food and vet bills, they will be covered by Halton police.

Journey will be sworn

in as an official member of Halton police on Aug. 19 at the Burlington Convention Centre.

Visit [www.dogguides.com](http://www.dogguides.com) for more information about Dog Guides.

ROYAL CANADIAN  
Family  
CIRCUS

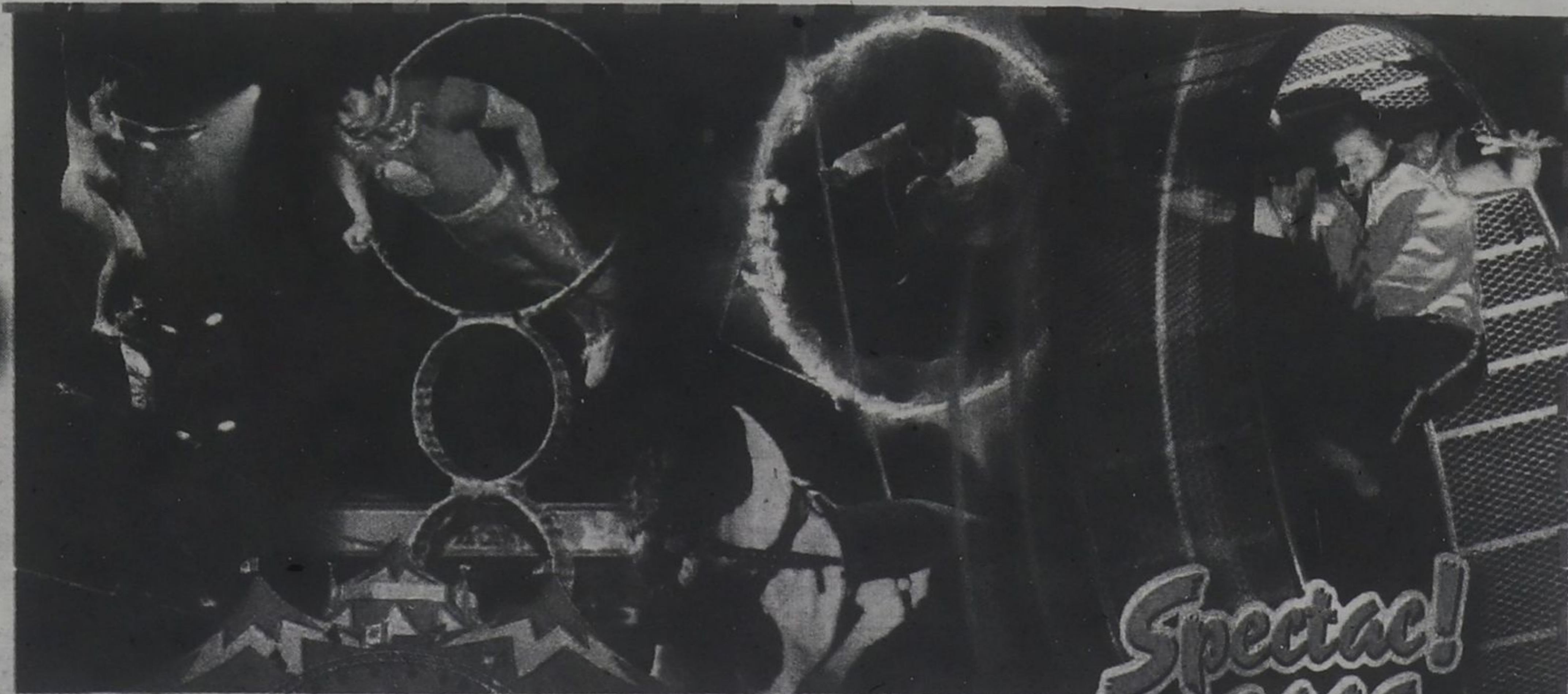
UNDER THE BIG TOP

BURLINGTON, ON  
July 26 - 29

CORPUS CHRISTI  
SECONDARY SCHOOL PARK

OAKVILLE, ON  
August 3 - 6

SHERIDAN TRAFALGAR  
CAMPUS



ALL NEW SHOW

FOR 2 FOR 1 TICKETS GO TO  
[www.royalcanadiancircus.ca](http://www.royalcanadiancircus.ca)

PROMO CODE: **highwire**

\*DISCOUNT AVAILABLE  
ON GENERAL ADMISSION  
TICKETS ONLY\*

or: On-site Circus Box Office (Cash Sales Only)

NOTICE - DUE TO FACTORS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE CIRCUS, ITS PRODUCER, PRESENTER AND SALES AGENTS, PERFORMERS AND ACTS IN THE SHOW MAY DIFFER FROM THOSE PORTRAYED OR REPRESENTED AND THEREFORE WE ASSUME NO LIABILITY FOR SUCH CHANGES.

ALSO TOURING: MISSISSAUGA • MARKHAM • PICKERING

BRING THIS AD TO  
THE BIG TOP BOX OFFICE  
BUY 2 FOR THE  
PRICE OF 1