

# Hot time at Chili festival

A little bit of Texas (and a lot of beer) invaded Milton Friday and Saturday as the Milton fair grounds was the scene of the first ever (and perhaps annual) Canadian Chili Cookoff.

About 1,000 people participated in the festival which combined a contest of real chili with several nonsensical games like a hockey stick horse race, a bullfrog jumping contest, a grapefruit-batting contest and several other games which were carried out under extremely hot and humid weather conditions.

Although many people entered the fair grounds, only 21 teams actually entered the chili contest while most of the others were content to sit back and participate in the proceedings with a couple of cool beers.

The event began Friday night when several teams set up tents and camping facilities, celebrating until the wee hours of Saturday morning.

By 10:30 a.m. Saturday, all of the chili contestants had set up elaborate western-style exhibits separated by several feet. They were also judged in a showmanship category.

Although the event drew nearly 1,000 people, organizers said they were hoping for more people and blamed the weather for the turnout.

"Ideally I was looking for 75-80 degree (Fahrenheit)," said organizer John Trudeau, "but I didn't want this heat."

"Some people had to go home because of the heat and they said they'd be back when it was cooler."

Most of the people attending were from out-of-town, although no exact figures were kept. A check of cars showed almost 90 per cent of the cars were from points outside Milton.

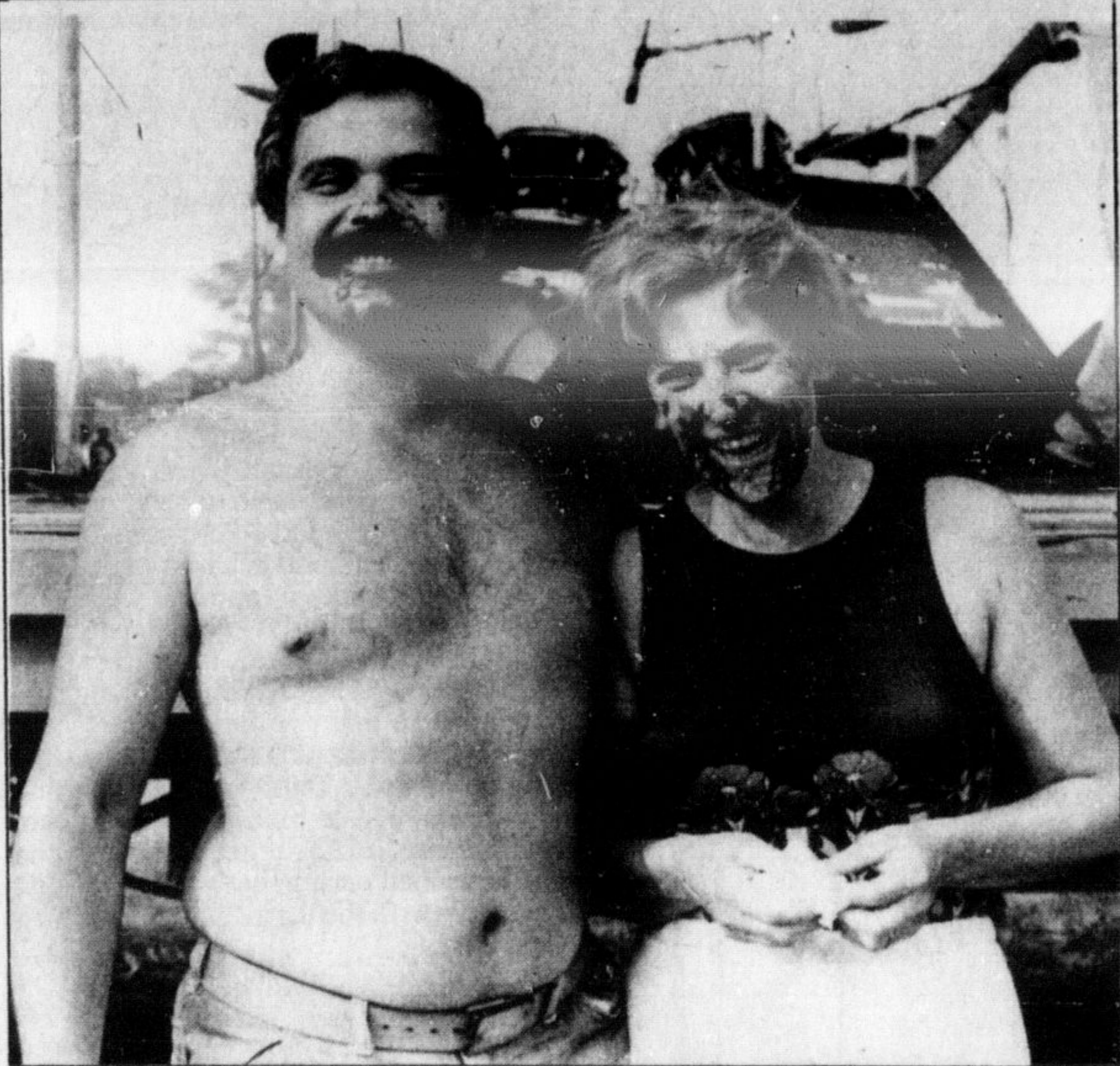
The event was sponsored by the Milton Optimist Club. Final figures on attendance and profit-and-loss will not be available until later this week or early next week.

Most of the people

came to have a good time and judging by the expressions on the majority of faces, it was accomplished.

"Oh, I think it was a success," said co-organizer Dieter Claer. "We didn't get as many people as we'd like, but next year we'll get a lot more. Everyone who was there will tell their friends and I think that's the best way to advertise."

"It's something new to the area and the first time is always the hardest. I don't doubt it will be a lot bigger next year."



THEY'RE SMILING BUT they refused to kiss one another—and there is little wonder. The team of Ed Krush and Norma Hull won the blueberry pie eating contest easily. The contestants weren't allowed to use their hands.

## Court house plans being considered

Although no new ideas for the old Halton court house have been received since the public meeting a few weeks ago, Milton Historical Society is keeping busy with proposals.

A number of ideas were put forth at the public meeting. Society President Jim Dills said the Friday deadline for new ideas had passed, with no more ideas submitted.

He said the society's executive is examining the proposals considering getting "professional input" to put together an overall plan for the building.

Mr. Dills said he hoped it would be ready to present to Milton Council by the end of the year.

"We can't satisfy everybody, but we'll try to accommodate community facilities, preserve the building, and try to provide ongoing support for its continued use."

"We have to be more flexible. We're trying to adapt an old building to current uses."

A large number of groups, including senior citizens, youth groups and service clubs have expressed a desire for part of the building.

The town is paying \$11,000 to heat the building this winter, but has gone on record as saying it won't do it indefinitely. The court house was offered to Milton Council for \$1.



FOUR MEMBERS of Halton Regional Police prepare their chili batch for testing at the Chili fest. The Halton Hawgs team put up a gallant effort and finished in the top 10 of 21 entries. From left to right they are Roy Smith, Frank Riviera, Rod Plant and Ian McNally.

## Ministry pins . . .

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In the report from the conservation authority, general manager Murray Stephen said the contractor who dumped the sludge did so improperly.

Mr. Stephen showed photographs of the sludge in Sheldon Creek.

He said if the sludge had been applied properly, this would never have happened.

"The amount of sludge was way above any MOE guidelines. A half an inch to an inch would have been sufficient, but the sludge was six inches deep in parts."

Mr. Stephen said the priorities on sludge dumping should be re-examined.

"Currently, it's get the sludge on the land. It should be 'Let's make sure the land is suited to receive sludge.'"

Ministry guidelines approved last week by the Cabinet allow sludge to be dumped on land once in five years. Before, it was once each year.

Mr. Giffen said it means Halton will have to find five more acreage to dump sludge, or find some other way of disposing of it.

Storage lagoons are one answer, but the current contractor, Fred Hagerman of Hagerman Farms Ltd., failed when he tried to get one.

A lagoon was one of the conditions of the contract, but Mr. Giffen said Mr. Hagerman had honestly and reasonably tried to get one but couldn't.

Mr. Giffen said the sites were mostly unsuitable. The ideal site was ruled out because the landowner denied permission to build a lagoon there.

Mr. Hagerman found another site, but the Ministry rejected it.

Councillor Laurie Mannell of Oakville said sarcastically the reason for the rejection "was because it was located in the middle of a prestige industrial park, right next to a cookie factory."

The problem may force rejection of all tenders for the contract for sludge disposal. Mr. Hagerman's contract will expire in a few months. Tenders have closed on a new contract, but have not been opened.

A thorough study of the problem will be undertaken. The committee said the results will be applied to the tender bids.

If none of them satisfy the committee, they will be rejected and Mr. Hagerman will be asked to negotiate an extension on his current contract.

In the meantime, the region will be required by MOE to agree to all sludge dump sites and establish a certification system.

## Council Briefs

A report on a proposed zoning amendment was requested by Milton Council Monday evening. The amendment would bring a parcel of land on the First Line, south of Derry Road, in conformity with the official plan. The land is currently zoned industrial, and an application to develop the land is still outstanding.

A proposed addition to the town's works garage on Nipissing Rd. will go ahead with Project Planning Associates to do the design work at a price not to exceed \$8,500.

## Harassed

### Driver quits

Harassing phone calls spelled the end of a summer job for a non-union ambulance employee working as an attendant during the Halton-Mississauga ambulance strike.

Glen Canavan of Hamilton handed in his resignation Sunday.

According to company manager Dennis Munch, the man's wife was plagued with nuisance calls at work in Hamilton, as well as at home.

"They threatened her that her husband would have his legs broken if he continued," said Mr. Munch.

Mr. Canavan was the victim of an assault attack at the Milton ambulance station shortly after he began working for the company.

The university student has charged union leader Hank Meyer with assault, after he was struck with a picket sign.

The union leader denies hitting him.

Mr. Munch said a replacement for Mr. Canavan has been hired.

### Talks resume

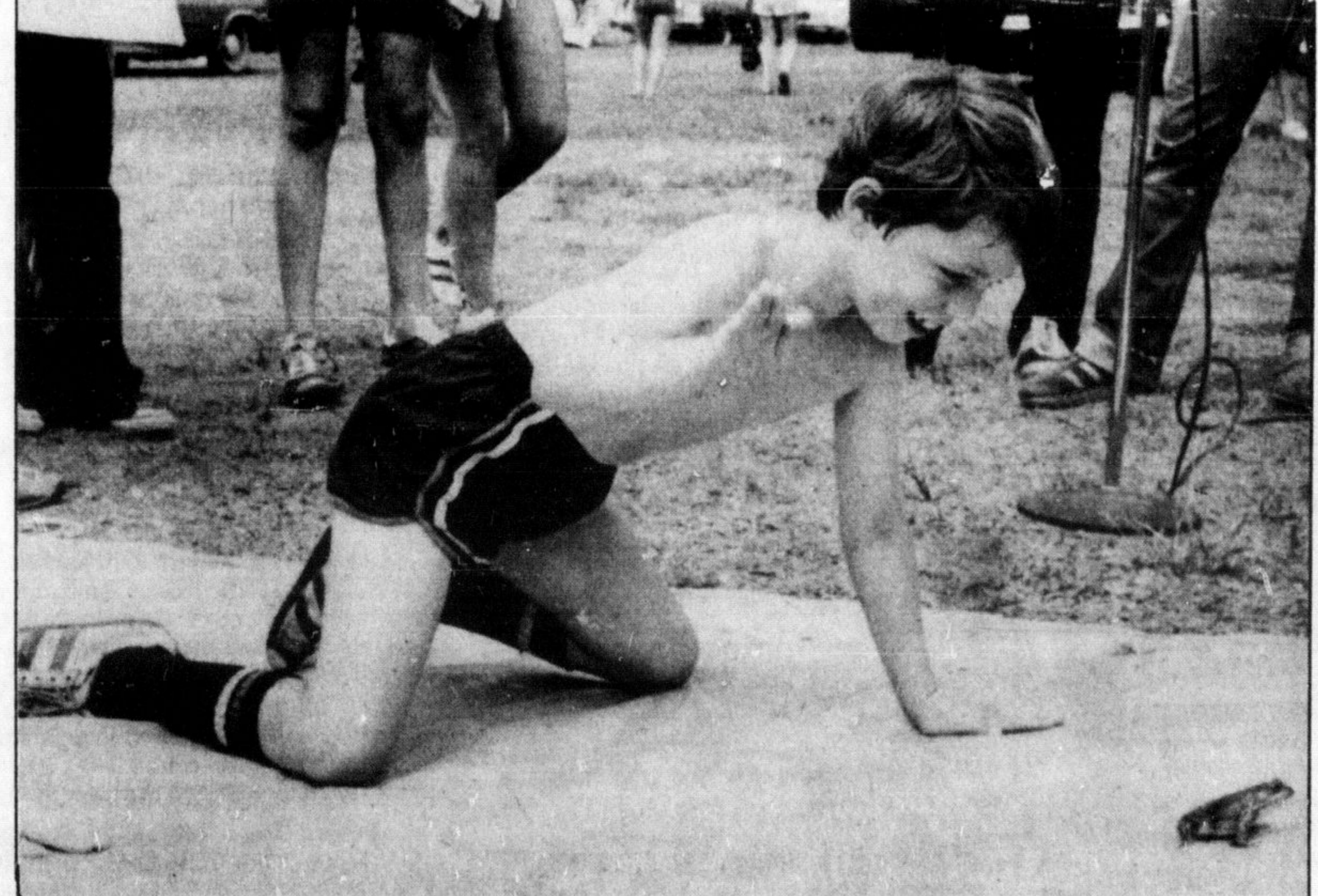
The Halton-Mississauga Ambulance Company and union executive members of Local 207 of Ontario Public Service Union have been ordered back to the mediation table Friday morning.

Negotiations are scheduled to resume in the Toronto office of the department of labor in an effort to settle the month-old strike by 75 company employees.

The meeting was called by labor mediator Trevor Smith Tuesday noon.

The announcement came two hours before a scheduled press conference at union headquarters, set for 2.30 p.m. The press gathering was cancelled.

Mr. Smith gave no reason for the cancellation, but has ordered a news blackout—effective immediately—until after talks Friday.



SHOWING THE WINNING STYLE, Ian Craig marches to victory in the Bullfrog Jumping Contest. Craig encouraged his frog off the four-foot radius mat in the fastest time of 4.28 sec. He received two pounds of frozen king crab claws for his efforts.



SOME OF THE CONTESTANTS got a little carried away with the pie-eating contest. These two gentlemen decided to use their hands and attempt to shove the pie down each other's throat after the contest.

## She's the Chili Queen

Much of the proceedings at Saturday's chili fest were being directed by a former Arkansas rodeo clown who has become the Chili Queen of Texas.

Shorty Fry, who claims to be 42 years old, called out many of the events and helped the organizers to set up the event.

"There's a technique in trying to get the public involved," she says in a slow southern drawl. "You've got to make every event funny for the people."

She spent much of her time in the day at the microphone, screaming at the top of her lungs to get people involved in such events as a hockey stick race, a bullfrog jumping contest, the chili test, a wet T-shirt contest and a turkey race—among others.

Her Texan neighbors are somewhat amused by her activities which see her at a different chili cookoff each weekend.

"They love me," she says. "They think I'm crazy. They call me the crazy lady who lives next door."

Shorty (who declined to give her real name) works for Wick Fowler Two-Alarm Chili Company in Austin and got involved with the cookoffs when her boss, Wick Fowler, challenged H. Allan Smith to a chili challenge in 1967. The two battled out in Terlingua, Texas for several hours but at the day's end no winner could be declared when it was discovered the ballots were stolen.

Enough of a hoopla was made at the time, it was decided to hold these challenges on a regular basis each year and the idea caught on with several other people.

"They made a big to-do about it then. They came from all over and everybody had such a good time that they decided to continue them."

The Canadian Chili Cookoff got underway last year in Texas when several people from Milton went to the American championships. Shorty helped them set up a workable program and has been its guiding spirit since then.

Saturday's chili winners move on to the World Championships, scheduled for the first week in November in Terlingua.



SOUNDING OFF at the microphone as she did throughout much of the day, Chili Queen Shorty Fry guided the program throughout much of the day.

Story, photos by Michael Boyle



WINNERS OF THE CHILI CONTEST receive the trophy for their efforts of the afternoon. The winning team came from Grimsby. Ted Skoreski presents the Molson Bowl of Red award to Cathy MacLelland (left), Cam Day and Colleen Black.