



### Appealing support

Tom Burley, Champion Photo

The Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal began this week in the Halton area. Organizers are attempting to raise \$40,000, to continue such work

as that done by Major Harold Peckford, a chaplain at Maplehurst Correctional Centre. See story on page A11.

## Sheridan Youth Home

# Quality a concern in takeover

By JANE MULLER  
Champion Reporter

The impending takeover of Sheridan Youth Home from its volunteer board of directors by the Ministry of Community and Social Services has raised many concerns for quality of care and the community.

Sheridan Youth Association's board of directors were forced to hand over the administration of the observation and detention home for juveniles to the ministry, effective in mid June as the ministry could not meet funding requests for the year.

Board president Bryan Clarke contends the home, which houses a maximum of 10 juvenile offenders awaiting court appearances and permanent placement, cannot operate properly with fewer dollars than his board requested.

"We were extremely reluctant to let the organization change hands," Mr. Clarke said during a telephone interview.

He fears if the home is operated on a lower budget then something will have to suffer, indicating reductions in staff should also lead to reductions in the number of children accepted at Sheridan.

Area manager for the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ron Childs, says the government is considering an application from a private operator experienced in administering observation and detention homes like the one in Milton. The budget submitted is below the amount requested by

Sheridan's volunteer board.

Sheridan Youth Association was offered \$347,800 as an operating budget for the coming year, about \$20,000 less than what was deemed necessary by the administrative body of facility.

The ministry's bottom line is \$31,800 more than was offered last year but, according to Sheridan's executive director, this amount would allow for only a 2 per cent raise for staff after increased operating costs were taken into consideration.

"Private operators expect some degree of profit and the service will suffer accordingly," Mr. Clarke claims.

To Sheridan's credit, it has remained virtually "invisible in the community" during the past three years as only one runaway has occurred. Mr. Clarke is concerned if a lower staff-child ratio is instigated such incidents will become more frequent.

He also expressed concern regarding the type of care offered at other ministry-operated homes where he has been appalled at the attitudes of staff, "when he brought to their attention some of the inadequacies he observed."

While Ron Childs says Sheridan staff have been inflexible in their adherence to ministry guidelines, causing problems in relations with other agencies, Mr. Clarke contends staff refused to work in contravention to the ministry's rules.

"They want us to get involved in their own charade," Mr. Clarke explains.

Mr. Childs said policy issues have some flexibility and this will be left to the interpretation of the new operator.

Although he is not clear on the specific areas where the private operator candidate has been able to undercut the budget proposed by Sheridan's board, he inferred it could be effected by lower staff numbers. He argues, however, a change in programming and scheduling could be implemented to ensure the quality of care would not suffer. The area manager contends there are many philosophies involved in the operation of observation and detention homes.

Mr. Childs was unable to answer concerns of Sheridan staff during a meeting last week, as to the changes which may come about with the shuffle of administrative power from the volunteer board to the ministry. A meeting planned Friday between ministry representatives and the single candidate proposing to run the facility should serve to enlighten Mr. Childs as to the programming and staffing suggestions of the private operator.

The failings of ministry operated observation and detention homes reported by Mr. Clarke and Sheridan staff and denied by Mr. Childs will likely never be remedied, according to the board president.

"Delinquent kids are not a vote-getting issue. No one really cares if it's not their kid involved," suggests Mr. Clarke.

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## Region decides

# Polluting firms not prosecuted

By STEVE ARNOLD  
Champion News Editor

Six Halton industries are continuing to pump "unacceptable" amounts of pollution into the region's sewer system but they won't be prosecuted, for now.

For the first time since the controversy began however, councillors have lifted a veil of secrecy from the process by naming the firms being investigated.

None of the six are located in Milton. Two operate in each of Burlington, Oakville and Halton Hills.

Each of the companies has been under the watchful eye of Regional staff since early 1981 because they are pumping heavy metals such as zinc, lead and cadmium into the sewage system.

When the amounts of these metals in sewage sludge are too high, problems are caused in the program under which the material is spread on farm fields as a fertilizer.

While the heavy metals do not require the spreading to stop, they do force staff to spread it less often and in lower amounts in each field.

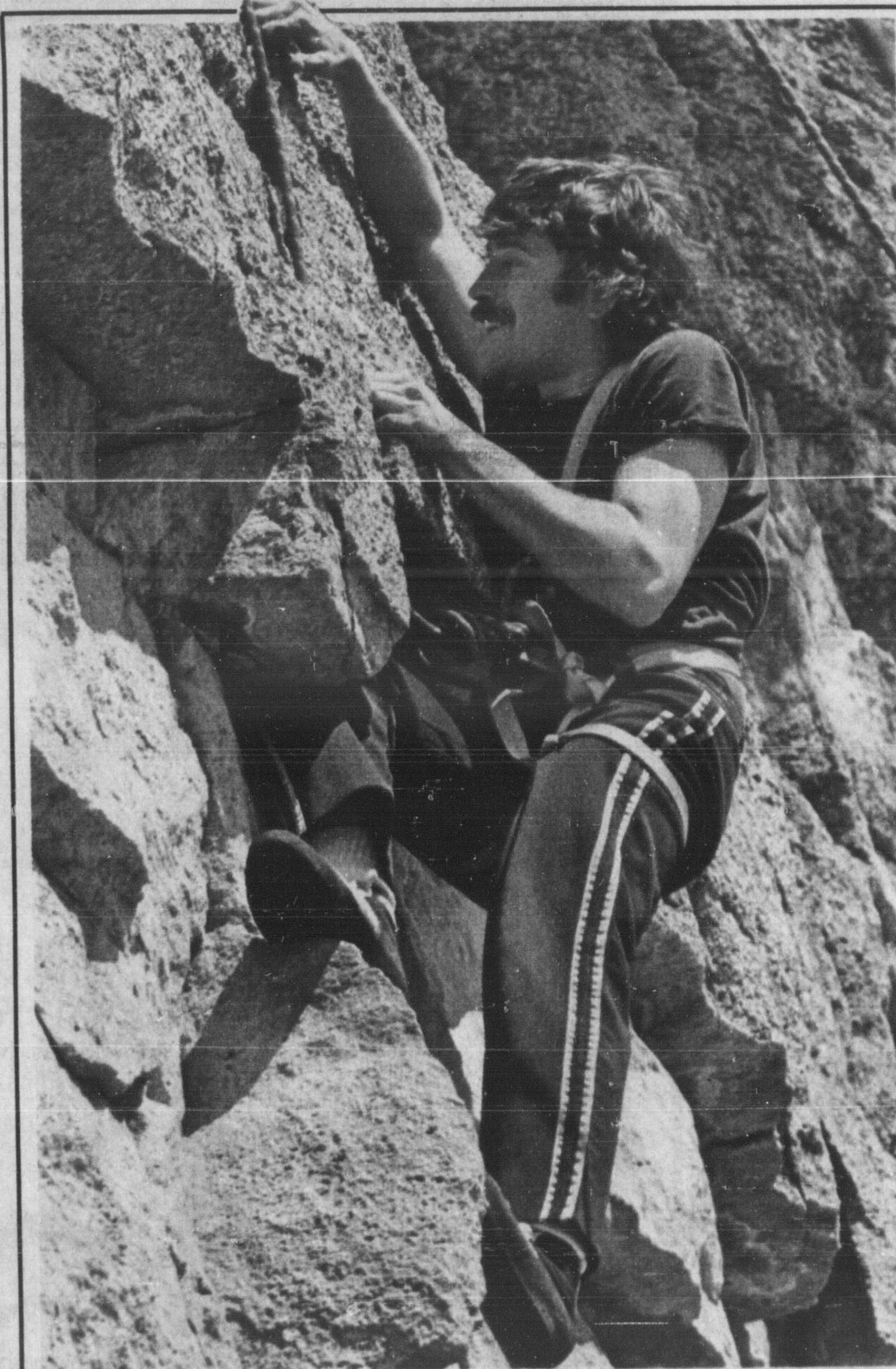
One of the firms causing these problems is Frank Heller Ltd., of Georgetown, whose leather tanning operation has been the source of higher than allowed levels of chromium in the system.

Spokesmen for that company appeared at last week's meeting of the Region's planning and public works committee to press for more time to make changes to their operation before prosecutions under Halton's sewage bylaw are started by Regional staff.

Although the spokesman asked that they be allowed to make their presentation to the committee in a secret session, the request was rejected.

Halton Hills mayor Peter Pomeroy sponsored their request for a closed door session, saying simply "I don't think it's too much to ask."

Other councillors, concerned about the amount of secrecy that has already been allowed on this issue,



Tom Burley, Champion Photo

## Reach for the top

Rock climbing classes have begun on the face of the Niagara Escarpment on weekends. On a scale from the base at Appleby Line to Rattle-

snake Point, how would you fare? It's not as easy as it looks.

## Doctor says

# Pact judge is inflation

By STEVE ARNOLD  
Champion News Editor

Inflation will be the final judge of the fee settlement reached last weekend between the Provincial government and doctors throughout Ontario.

Dr. Walter Koslowski, president of the Halton County Medical Society, said the full details and effects of the settlement will only be known over time, but he felt certain that the rate of inflation would be an important element.

After several months of negotiating, and a series of rotating walkouts, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) reached an agreement with the Ontario government that would give doctors an immediate fee increase, along with provisions for the future.

According to published reports, the settlement could cost the Provincial government up to \$1 billion by 1987, the end of the contract.

The agreement is guaranteed for the first two years of its five-year term and allows the doctors to open negotiations again in the third year.

In the first year, medical fees paid by the Ontario Hospital Insurance Plan (OHIP) will increase by 11 per cent, effective April 1, and by 3 per cent on Jan. 1, 1983.

An increase of 8.75 per cent will be paid in April 1983, with a further 3 per cent in January 1984.

In April 1984, doctors will be permitted to negotiate again but, whatever amount is agreed on, it cannot be less than 7 per cent.

In the fourth and fifth years of the contract, doctors will negotiate a fee increase for April and receive an additional 4 per cent in January of the following year.

That means that the physician earning the current average salary of \$80,000 will get \$122,000 after the first three years of the deal.

Ontario taxpayers will have to pick up additional expenses of \$742 million over the next three years to meet the settlement. If inflation stays around 11 per cent in the third and fourth years of the contract, the government will have to spend an additional \$1 billion annually.

Dr. Koslowski said the full effect of the settlement will not be apparent until the later years of the contract.

"I don't know all the ramifications of this. I'm relying on the wisdom of the negotiating team to get a good settlement. If they say this is good, then it must be," he said.

Protection from the ravages of continued inflation, he said, was one of the major goals the doctors sought in this set of negotiations "so we wouldn't have to go back to the bargaining table every year."

As part of the settlement the OMA has called off all further job actions, which means doctors will not close their offices for three days this week and will resume renewing prescriptions and providing advice over the telephone.

"The job actions did what they were designed to do," Dr. Koslowski said, "but they are finished now and we are all breathing a sigh of relief over that."



## Touring U.S.A.

Ron Hunsinger will compete in the world's largest bicycle tour Saturday in the United States. See page A10 for his story.

## Teen survives escarpment fall

A Mississauga teenager narrowly escaped almost certain death Sunday evening when he fell from a 60-foot bluff while partying at Kelso Conservation Area.

Douglas Belford, 18, of 3509 Queenston Dr., suffered a concussion and minor cuts and bruises in the fall. He was rushed to Milton District Hospital by Halton Regional Police and is listed in stable condition.

Halton police say Mr. Belford was one of 20 Mississauga youths taking part in a bush party on the Niagara Escarpment. Police believe he was drinking, ventured away from the group and walked towards Kelso bluffs.

He was found by some friends at the end of the Bruce Trail, beside the east end of the ski hill at Glen Eden.

No charges have been laid by police.

## Inside today's Champion

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### Region Deficit

In the first of a two part series, Champion News Editor Steve Arnold examines the growing problems Halton Region has had since its inception. See page A9 for story.

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