

# The Canadian Champion



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## Teachers reject deal

By **TIM WHITNELL**

Special to *The Champion*

Halton's public secondary school teachers have rejected a final contract offer and given their bargaining team the right to call a strike.

Last week the 1,050 local members of the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) voted 93 per cent in favor of rejecting the final offer from the Halton Board of Education and 90.5 per cent in favor of a strike mandate.

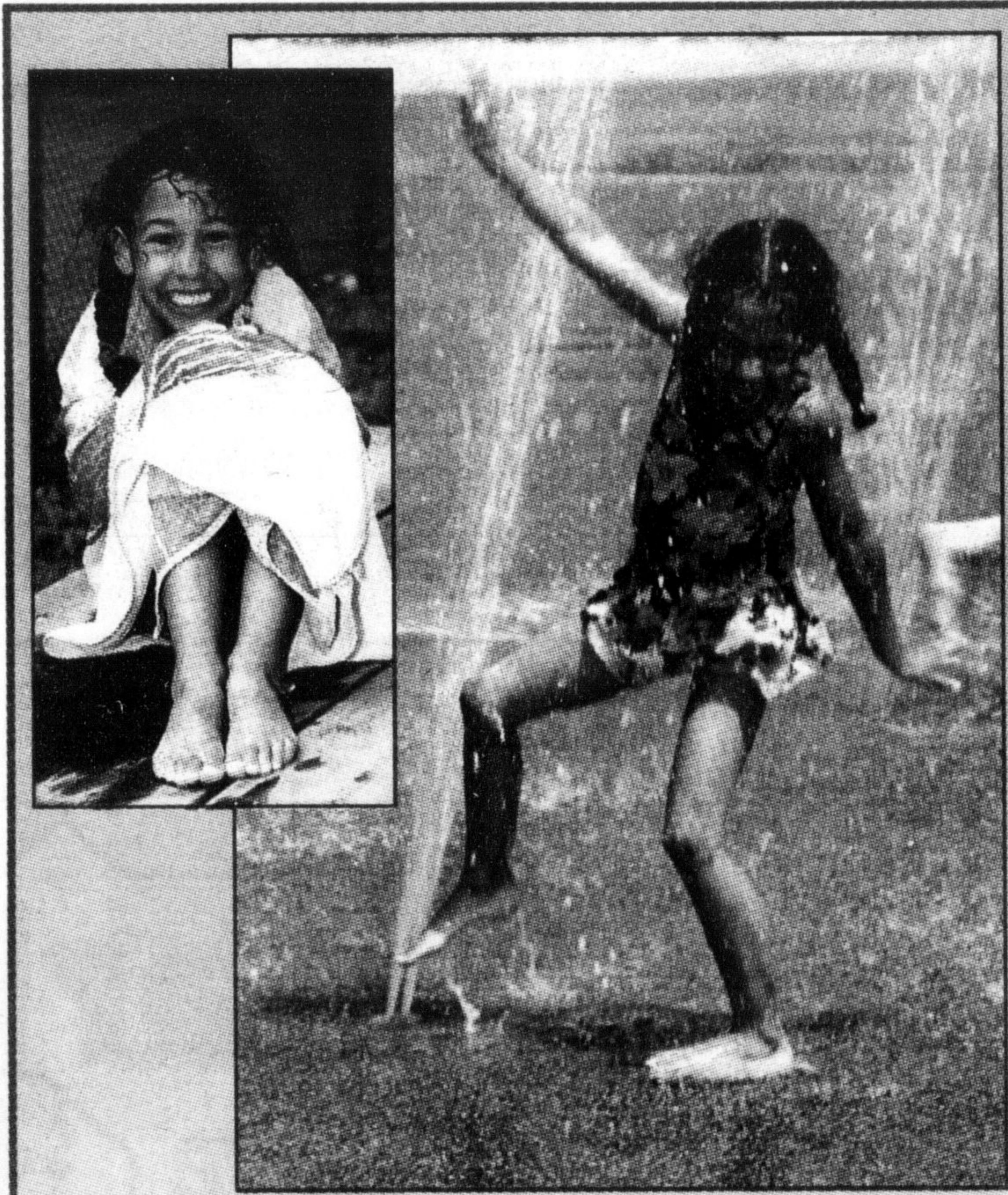
The federation only has to give five days notice of strike action or other sanctions, but that is not the goal of the union, the chair of the teachers' negotiating team said in a prepared statement.

"It is not the intention of the teachers' negotiating team to begin a sanction against the board unless the board unilaterally moves to change the job security, compensation or working conditions of the teachers," said Jim McQueen of Toronto.

Kathleen Carroll, president of the local chapter of the OSSTF, said the onus is now on the board to get negotiations restarted.

"It's a shame we've had to go to these lengths to get the board to listen. We're serious about wanting a contract. We want a settlement that's

• See **NO DEAL** on page 3



Photos by **GRAHAM PAINE**

## Real cool

Four-year-old Vanessa Matos had a great time playing in the cool spray of the 'Splash Zone' at Rotary Park Saturday afternoon. Afterward she (inset) dried off and cuddled to keep warm in her towel. The popular water attraction is free today as part of Canada Day celebrations at Rotary Park.

## Cops will charge gun owners who let papers lapse

By **KAREN SMITH**

*The Champion*

Police say charges are pending against four Milton residents in a crackdown on improperly registered handguns, and warn that more action will come if offenders don't comply with firearms laws.

A total of 10 Halton handgun owners face charges for allegedly failing to notify the proper authorities of their new addresses after they moved, said Halton Regional Police Insp. John Vanderlelie.

Eighteen restricted firearms, which include handguns and certain types of rifles, were seized following the two-month investigation.

"This is a fairly serious offence. It's actually a criminal offence," he said.

The charges came after Halton police's representative on the Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit — a task force made up of RCMP, OPP and regional police service members — initiated a crackdown on offenders.

The action isn't associated with the federal government's controversial

gun control bill, Insp. Vanderlelie said. Failure to notify of an address change constitutes an offence under the Criminal Code.

"We just decided to look at our records to do an audit."

Investigators checked restricted weapons owners' records through driver's licence information and "other confidential data bases," he said.

Police said about 500 of 35,000 restricted weapons in Halton are improperly registered and more charges are pending.

"The message here for us is that we still have a number of visits to do," Insp. Vanderlelie said.

However, he said offenders can avoid such action if they update their records now.

Being charged means a home visit by police armed with a search warrant, seizure of firearms and a court appearance. Offenders can face fines and even lose their weapons permanently.

• See **CRACKDOWN** on page 3

## Police raid scratch and win contest firm

By **KAREN SMITH**

*The Champion*

The RCMP-OPP task force Phonebusters has executed search warrants for company records in connection with a Canadian scratch-and-win contest that advertised more than \$500,000 worth of prizes.

Phonebusters, which investigates telephone and mail frauds, is pursuing charges against the Montreal-based company Interactive Casino after many contest participants paid \$25 to call in their winning cards.

"We're saying you don't have to pay \$25 to find out what you've won," said Det. Gus Laforge of Phonebusters.

Police received hundreds of complaints from citizens about Canada Post-delivered cards that resemble Ontario Lottery Corporation scratch-and-win tickets.

The cards, which depict a slot machine and are dubbed 'Slots of Gold', were dropped in mailboxes by the millions across three Canadian provinces — the majority in Ontario — in late 1996 and early

1997. Milton was one destination.

The contest, which closed June 15, advertised \$500,000 worth of prizes including \$10,000 in instant cash, televisions, round-trip tickets to Hawaii, personal computers, Sony camcorders and gas barbecues.

Winning cardholders who had three identical prize symbols — many naturally curious to learn what they won — were urged to call a 900 number.

When dialing the number, however, contest participants were warned that they could hang up at no charge or continue the call for \$25 to find out their prize. Notification of the fee is also written in fine print on the back of the cards.

Callers who proceeded heard another recording informing them of their prize according to the winning combinations on their tickets.

The 900 number service provider Infotel, a Montreal-based company which also operates



Police are continuing investigations into the Montreal-based Interactive Casino, which recently sent out "Slots of Gold" scratch-and-win-type cards in Ontario, including Milton.

Interactive Casino, kept the majority of the \$25 and Bell Canada, which handles the billing, received

• See **WARRANT** on page 12

**NEWSLINES**

### Big bike back

It's not too late to book your seat on the Big Bike for Stroke Saturday.

Teams as well as individuals can sign up for the Heart and Stroke Foundation fundraiser, which takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To book a team, sign up individually or make a pledge, call Helena Donaldson or Debbie Ferguson at 875-3237.

Proceeds fund research on heart disease and stroke.

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## BEACH PARTY

July 21-26<sup>th</sup>

Watch for further details

Seniors Day

Mon. July 7<sup>th</sup>