

# The Canadian Champion



A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 138 No. 51

Tuesday August 12, 1997

20 Pages

75¢ (GST included)

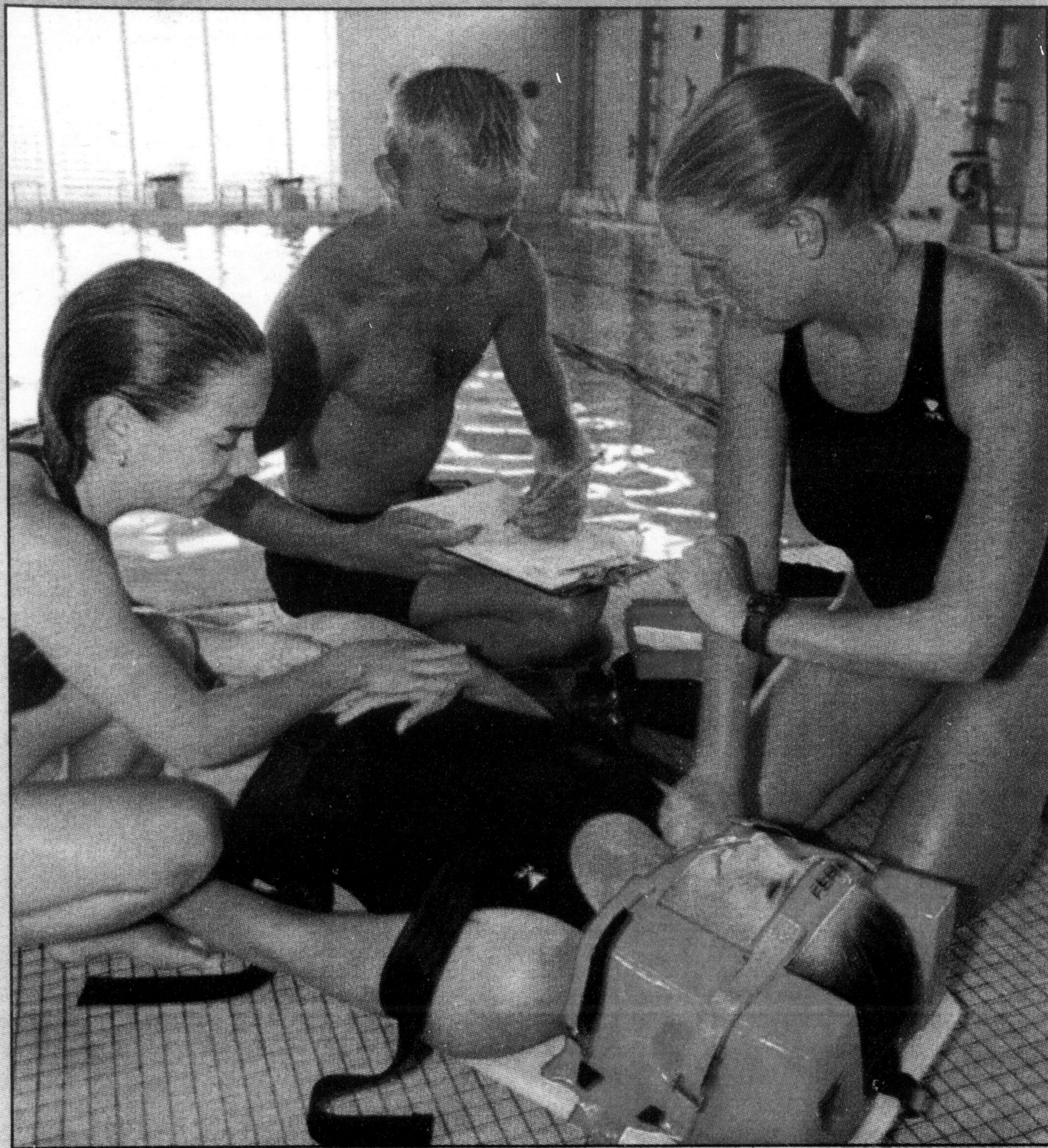


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Reaching for the top

The municipal lifeguard team from Milton's leisure services department has, for the first time, qualified for the provincial lifeguard championships this Thursday through Saturday in Peel and Toronto. Above (l-r), lifeguards Sarah Brownell, Tim Franklin and Sandy Gent assess mock spinal injury victim and fellow lifeguard team member Kristi Roselle as the foursome drill for the event.

## Joyce Savoline cries foul over provincial plan

By BRAD REAUME

*The Champion*

The provincial government's claim that municipalities will be able to produce a 10 per cent property tax cut by 2000 is "totally unrealistic" according to Halton Chair Joyce Savoline.

Ms Savoline made the comments in reaction to an announcement by the provincial government that social services in the Greater Toronto Area will be paid for by pooling expenses among municipalities.

Ms Savoline said such claims "clearly show the province doesn't understand municipal business."

She said the funding shifts are so that provincial claims of taxpayer savings in Toronto through the creation of the megacity can occur.

"It looks to me like a fix to make the megacity work," she said.

"The burden will be borne by municipalities in the 905 (suburban) area."

Last week the province announced a \$660 million shift in funding, with Halton regional municipalities responsible for about \$40 million more than they currently pay in property taxes.

Exact figures are not yet available.

In 1994 about 51 people per thousand in Toronto were on social assistance while Halton supported just under 10 people per thousand.

### Property taxes could skyrocket

"We are going to be expected to pay for services where we do not have control of the standards," said Ms Savoline.

"The real concern is what this might mean in the future. There is real uncertainty for the property taxpayer. It is very possible property taxes could skyrocket in the future."

Ms Savoline said there is no pending announcement from the province which will even out the financial impact.

In fact, the announcements were apparently made taking into account expected tax shifts through province-wide property reassessment.



Joyce Savoline

Property taxes in Toronto were expected to rise significantly through a province-wide reassessment of properties.

Ms Savoline was particularly incensed with comments from Toronto-area mayors who suggested that suburban communities are finally going to have to pay their fair share of taxes.

She said 905 areas have managed their affairs prudently while Toronto politicians refused to make necessary changes to property taxation and service levels.

### Toronto unaffected

"Toronto will be virtually unaffected by these changes which will cushion the effect of the megacity," Ms Savoline said, calling for an even playing field regarding assessment and standards of various municipal programs.

However, she acknowledged Toronto would be hit hard if the playing field was leveled.

• see related story on page 3.

## NEWSLINES

### BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP



Bill Boers

Working Harder to stay #1

Complete auto body and refinishing services  
155 Nipissing Rd., Milton  
(905) 878-2721

### It's too dry to make residential fires

The Milton Fire Department asks urban and rural dwellers to refrain from burning on their properties.

Due to dry conditions, firefighters are worried brush fires and campfires may spread and cause havoc.

"We're trying to prevent fire before

it happens," said fire department spokesman Mark Cross.

It's illegal for urban residents to burn on their properties but some still have campfires. Allowed to burn with a permit, rural dwellers are also being asked to hold off.

# MILTON MALL

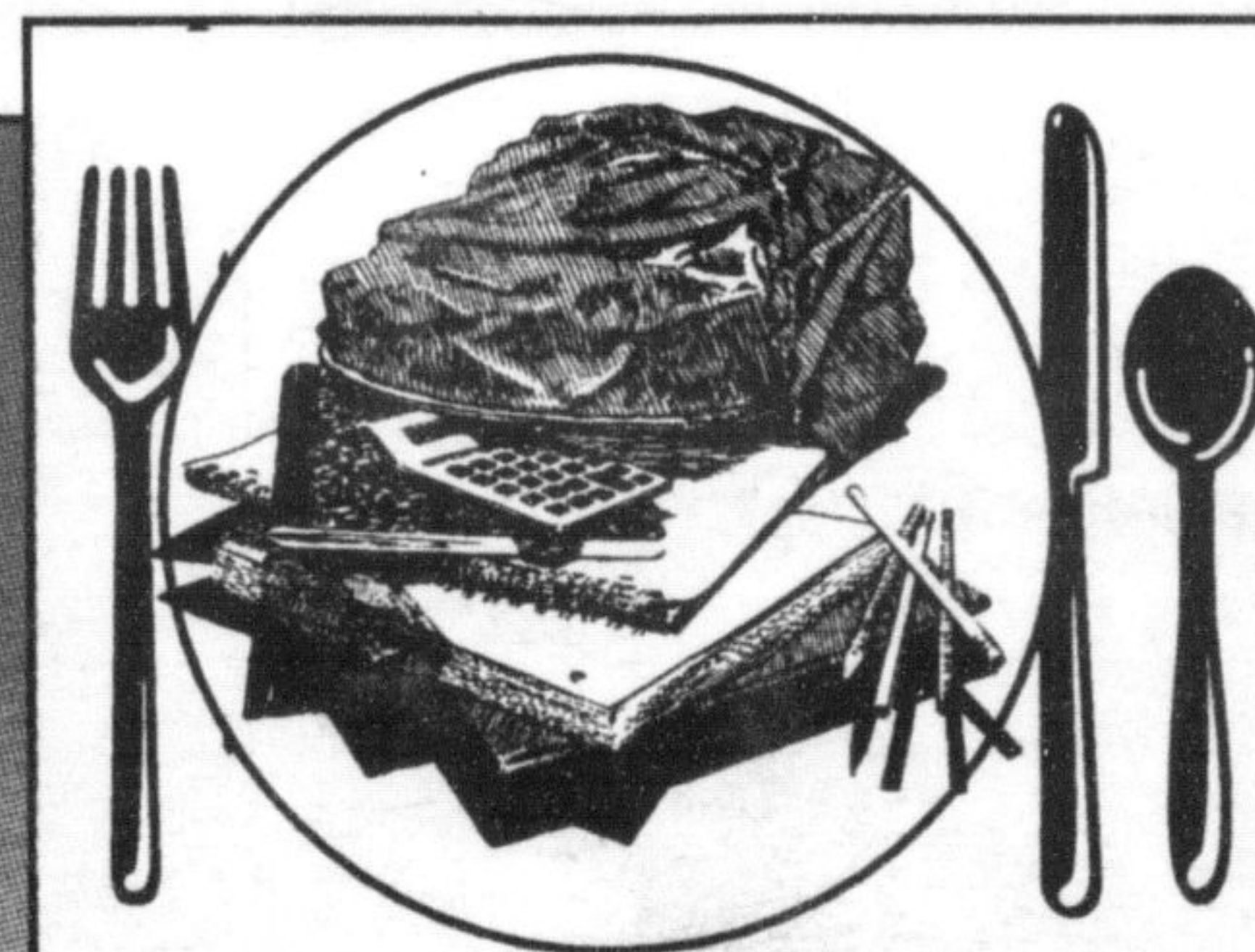
OPEN DAILY: MON.-FRI 9:30-9:00  
SAT 9:30-6:00 SUN 12:00-5:00

55 ONTARIO ST.  
(905) 878-3900

Shop Milton First For...

# Back to School

and Have a Lunch on us  
the week of August 25 - 30th



Further  
Details  
Next  
Week!