

The Canadian Champion



A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 138 No. 103

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

36 Pages

75¢ (GST included)



Submarining

Jennifer Porenta works out at the Milton Leisure Centre. She's one of six Marlin swimmers who'll compete at the provincial championships this week in Brantford.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Suspect says he no longer owned rifle

A murder suspect told investigators he once owned a .22-calibre rifle, but gave it to his mother, court heard Thursday afternoon.

Keith Madeley, 25, told two Halton Regional Police detectives that he used the gun for rabbit hunting, but got rid of it because it jammed.

"I can't remember if I gave it to her or sold it to her," he said in the 90-minute audio tape played before the jury.

Mr. Madeley, charged in the slaying of 77-year-old Fred Sheppard, was interviewed by police on March 22, 1995 in the bedroom of the Lower Baseline home of Susan and Brian Gagnon.

It was more than two weeks after Mr. Sheppard's bullet-riddled body was discovered in an outhouse at the rear of his Steeles Avenue property. Mr. Madeley, who has pleaded not guilty, told detectives how he was dating Lori Gagnon,

Mr. Sheppard's granddaughter, and living at her parents' home.

He said he would often accompany Lori to Mr. Sheppard's home to perform chores for him.

The jury was sent home Friday after legal arguments erupted during the cross-examination of Det. Keith Woudstra, one of the two officers who interviewed Mr. Madeley.

The trial was expected to continue yesterday.

NEWSLINES

Cruiser hit

A Halton Regional Police officer was rammed from behind in his cruiser but still managed to chase down his assailant Sunday evening in Milton.

Constable Strath Crawford was parked along Ontario Street near E.C. Drury High School — finishing up a report from a traffic violation — when he noticed a north-bound GMC pickup truck bolting towards him.

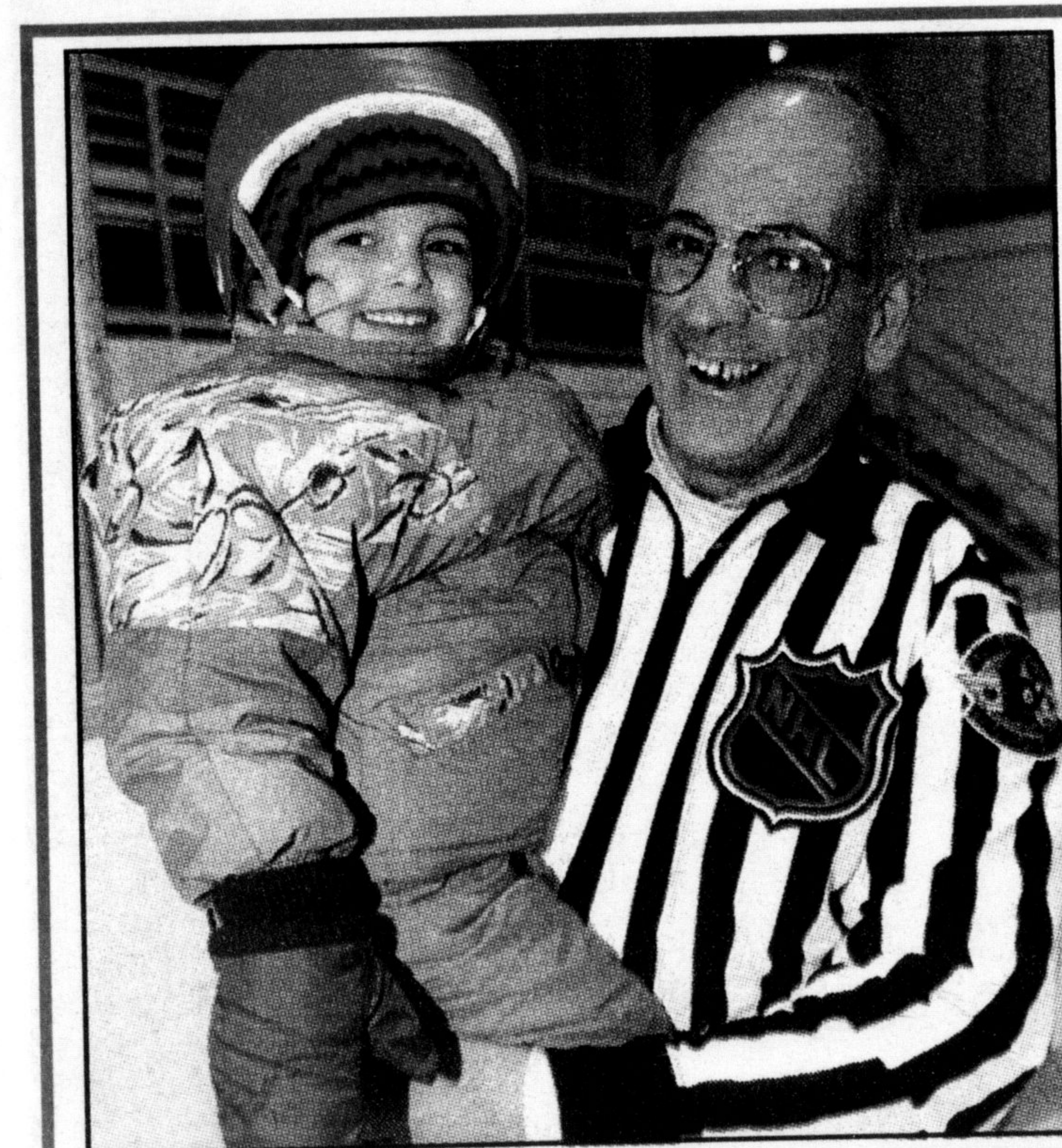
He was struck from behind and suffered minor neck injuries. Const. Crawford was then forced to track the motorist down when he abandoned his vehicle and fled the scene.

He was arrested a short time later.

Charged with impaired and dangerous driving — plus failure to remain — is a 32-year-old Acton man.

BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP
 Working Harder to stay #1
 Complete auto body and refinishing services
 155 Nipissing Rd., Milton
 (905) 878-2721

Bill Boers



Good job, John

NHL linesman and Hockey Hall of Famer John D'Amico (with three-year-old granddaughter Ashley) was all smiles during his 13th annual Skate-A-Thon Saturday at Memorial. The event raised \$19,165 for The Easter Seals Society, almost \$3,000 more than last year. See page 7 for more photos.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Parents worried

By BRAD REAUME
 The Champion

Confusion in schools is not exclusive to students.

Schools in Halton and across Ontario are sending parents requests for supplies such as toilet paper. The request is puzzling local parents, who appear anything but unified in their reactions.

Some parents think they pay enough taxes, resent the request for what they see as an additional levy from schools, and see it as the beginning of a two-tiered voucher system for education.

Other parents are angry with the provincial government, saying so much money has been pulled from education that the schools have no other choice but to look

• see REQUESTS on page 3

Shop Milton First for...



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

55 ONTARIO ST. (905) 878-3900

1998 NEW CAR SHOW

Wednesday February 25th - Saturday February 28th

Come see the

