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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Swinging into spring

Two-year-old Brad Gorman enjoys sun-drenched, spring-like weather Wednesday at Victoria Park. With temperatures as high as 9°C, can the official start of spring be far away?

Council indicates

Worry now, decide later

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

They declined to talk the talk.

Tuesday night several town councillors said they do not want to tip their hands regarding tax increases or service cuts before the bottom line on financial requirements for 1998 is known.

However, layoffs appear to be a possibility. Included in the budget package is a department by department plan to cut as much as 14.5 per cent of expenditures, partly through the layoff of the equiva-

lent of 32 full time employees.

The information provides council with options for making deeper cuts, which appear to be necessary to meet provincial budget requirements.

Faced with possible new information from provincial officials, members of Milton's administration and planning committee decided to defer consideration of the town's operating budget.

A meeting with provincial officials will occur next week with debate on Milton's budget slated for

• see WAIT on page 3

Expert: Blood tracks by shoe like suspect's

By IRENE GENTLE

Special to The Champion

A Milton murder trial jury examined a blood-stained jacket sleeve and an outhouse plank with a bloodied partial foot imprint during the testimony of a forensic biologist Wednesday.

Elida Kafarowski of the Centre of Forensic Science testified on blood splatter patterns found on the board at the scene of the murder of Fred Sheppard, 77.

Mr. Sheppard's bullet-racked body was found in the outhouse of his Steeles Avenue property in March, 1995.

Keith Madeley, 25, a former boyfriend of Mr. Sheppard's then 14-year-old granddaughter, is charged with the killing.

Ms Kafarowski testified as to whether blood patterns indicate the blood was on the outhouse plank before or after the print was made.

The foot impression matched in print and size the shoes worn by Mr. Madeley at his April, 1995 arrest.

No blood was found on the shoes themselves.

Ms Kafarowski told the court her analysis of 8 by 10 inch photographs of the board, taken immediately after the murder, was inconclusive as to the layering of the blood with the print. However, later scrutiny of the board itself in January and February 1998 proved more informative.

Blood there before

"Having looked at the object itself as well as the photographs, I was able to conclude that the blood had been deposited to the surface before the footwear impression had been made," said Ms Kafarowski.

Ms Kafarowski testified that the disturbed, or non-bead-like, stains were consistent with the pattern of the print treads.

"There may have been blood on the bottom of the shoe or alternatively it's possible that the blood is picked up by the bottom of the shoe," said Ms Kafarowski. "The blood would have to have been wet to some extent at the time."

Tests done in similar circumstances show that small drops of blood would take 30-40 minutes to dry.

A leather jacket with a blood-stained left sleeve was also shown to the jury. Prior testimony by the victim's daughter, Susan Gagnon, had linked the jacket with her

daughter, Lori, who was the girlfriend of the accused at the time of the murder.

Defence attorney Dirk Derstine argued that the small amount of blood on the sleeve could have been produced by something like a pricked finger.

Time a factor

Mr. Derstine also argued that the time span between the 1995 murder and the 1998 examinations of the plank could make for uncertain conclusions.

"I'm going to suggest that in any scientific endeavor there are various degrees of certainty," said Mr. Derstine.

"I'm going to suggest that blood on a surface over time becomes more elastic and susceptible to rubbing off. This would be a concern to you since you only actually saw the item we're referring to three years after the blood was transferred."

The trial is expected to continue today.

NEWSLINES

Curl for cure

Milton will curl for cancer this weekend.

Adults and children alike will descend on the Milton Curling Club today and tomorrow in a mass effort to raise funds for Camp Trillium — an Ontario summer program for children with cancer.

Organizers are hoping to raise \$20,000 through corporate sponsorship, pledges and entry fees.

In addition to day-long competition, Curl For Cancer will feature games of chance plus a live and silent auction.

Businesses wishing to make last minute donations can do so by calling Doug Wilson at 878-0754 or Ken Hassard at 878-8231.

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