

# The Canadian Champion



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## A swim and a smile

Skylar Kerklaan, 2, seems to be getting right into the swing — or rather swim — of things at the Milton Leisure Centre where she and mother Angela have been enjoying classes.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Cop union wants more street officers

By KAREN SMITH

*The Champion*

Members of the police association are on a mission to increase the number of officers in Halton.

Bill Henshaw, president of the Halton Regional Police Association, said the group is in the midst of building its case for the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services.

He said association members are working on asking the commission for a review of policing in Halton, but they first must gather data to back up their claim — that Halton is short-staffed.

Constable Henshaw said regional councillors want police to step up enforcement of the Highway Traffic Act, answer calls for service and drive through neighbourhoods to prevent crime.

But the number of officers available falls short, he said. And it's already common for officers to give up their lunches and breaks in the line of duty.

"The north end (Milton and Halton Hills) has always been short," he said. "There're not as many officers on the platoons."

Const. Henshaw was on hand late last month when Halton politicians challenged Chief Peter Campbell on some aspects of the service's 1998 budget request.

Ten new constables will join the service this year but that barely puts a dent in the problem, Const. Henshaw said.

Chief Campbell himself has warned politicians a review by the commission could see Halton directed to hire up to 36 officers just to meet the police-to-citizen ratio ordered at the completion of an earlier Halton review.

Const. Henshaw referred to a 1988-89 study in which the Ontario Police Commission, the forerunner of the civilian body, did a review and ordered Halton to hire 49 more officers to bring the service up to adequate levels. In fact, only 40 were hired.

He said he the association will use that data as well as other statistics to try to convince the commission that a review is warranted.

Const. Henshaw said he couldn't narrow down a time frame, but said all the costs in the process would be borne by association members.

Last year, Halton had 1.16 uniformed officers for every 1,000 citizens. Halton's population has been pegged at about 350,000. The provincial average, excluding Toronto, is 1.33 officers.

## Police: Duo stole \$50,000 in goods

By KAREN SMITH

*The Champion*

Six police officers spent three hours unloading about \$50,000 worth of what's believed to be stolen property following a search warrant at a Martin Street home Wednesday.

But the goods recovered in the 4:30 p.m. search weren't items typically targeted by thieves. The 121 boxes removed from the attractive two-storey home were filled with small items such as groceries, household supplies and clothing, said Det. Sgt. Jackie Gordon of Halton Regional Police.

The cartons of toothpaste, toilet paper, shampoo, clocks, books, videos, cameras, babies' clothing and office supplies "neatly stored" throughout the home were stolen from Milton stores over a period of about a year, Det. Sgt. Gordon said.

It's unclear for what purpose the property was taken and the investigation is ongoing.

Det. Sgt. Gordon said investigators have their work cut out for them in sorting out the hundreds of items.

It's believed the goods came from

Milton grocery, drug, variety and clothing stores, and six businesses have already been identified as targets, she said.

The arrest of two men in connection with the stolen property followed a month-long investigation, Det. Sgt. Gordon said.

"This was good police work," she said. "The investigation was well organized and there was good co-operation between pla-

toons leading up to the execution of the search warrant."

Twin brothers Grant and Gary Heselstine, 47, of Martin Street face charges of theft under \$5,000, possession of stolen property under \$5,000 and possession of stolen property over \$5,000.

Gary was held for a bail hearing scheduled for yesterday in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton.

• see photo on page 3

## Career talk on at Drury

Students will learn the options available to them in workplaces at the fourth annual Careers Unlimited exhibit April 29.

The 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. event at E.C. Drury High School will feature displays of career options for the year 2000 and beyond, and keynote speaker Larry Smith.

Students, parents, teachers and interested community members are invited.



## NEWSLINES

### Fishing fun is on downtown

Young anglers get ready.

The annual volunteer-run Milton Mill Pond Fishing Derby will be held Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

The free family event invites people of all ages to take part. Prizes will be awarded for each age group.

The Mill Pond is closed to fishing prior to the derby.

Anyone who wishes to make a donation to the event can do so by cash or cheque payable to the Mill Pond Fishing Derby at the Halton Community Credit Union, 44 Main St.

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