

The Canadian Champion



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Reward for the capture of cannon thieves

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

The head of the Ontario Renaissance Festival is offering a \$1,000 reward for the arrest of destructive thieves who drove off with a historic cannon, and who are believed to be responsible for other break-ins at the site.

The annual medieval festival on Eighth Line between Britannia and Derry roads has been targeted by thieves three times over its off-season for a loss of more than \$11,000 in property and repairs.

The latest and boldest "senseless" heist was Thursday night, said Ontario Renaissance Festival general manager Adam Smith. "It started out as a nuisance and it's grown into actual loss of property," he said. "It's very upsetting. We really want it to stop."

The culprits stole a rare Canadian-made working cannon valued at \$2,700 as well as several pieces of expensive construction equipment.

The cannon is hard to replace, but Mr. Smith said he's also concerned that the four-foot weapon is capable of shooting small projectiles.

"Someone who has displayed such poor judgment and behaviour now has a cannon," he said. "It's very real and could be used for that."

He said he's also concerned that the heists are becoming more serious.

The first break-in on the site in October was to a food booth and most of the damage was relatively minor.

The second incident last month was more violent, Mr. Smith said. The culprits forced open a boarded up food booth and destroyed ovens, lighting fixtures and stained-glass windows for a \$5,000 loss.

In Thursday's \$6,000 theft, perpetrators entered a pad-locked storage trailer by breaking through the roof.

A neighbour saw a van backing up into the property at about

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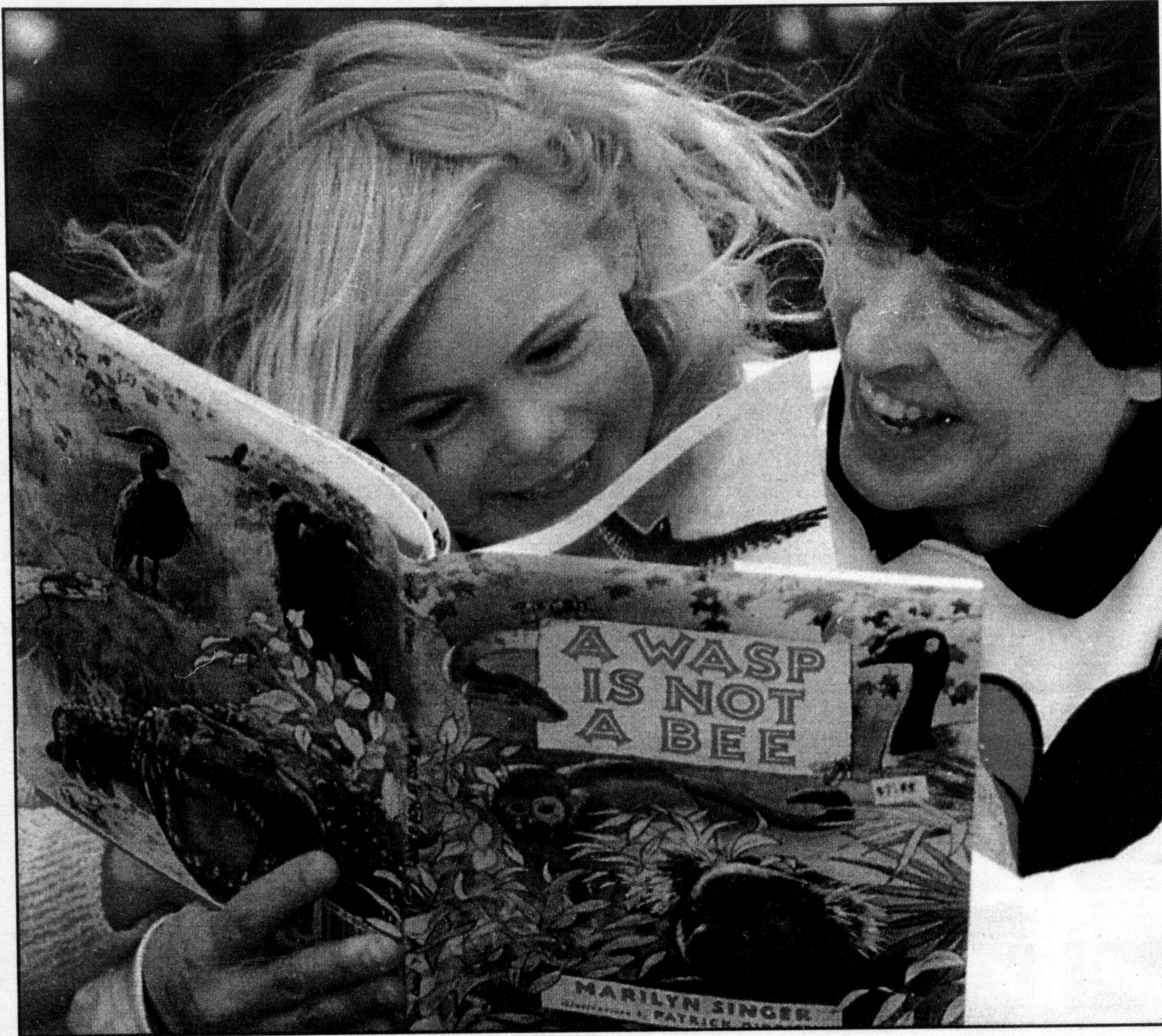
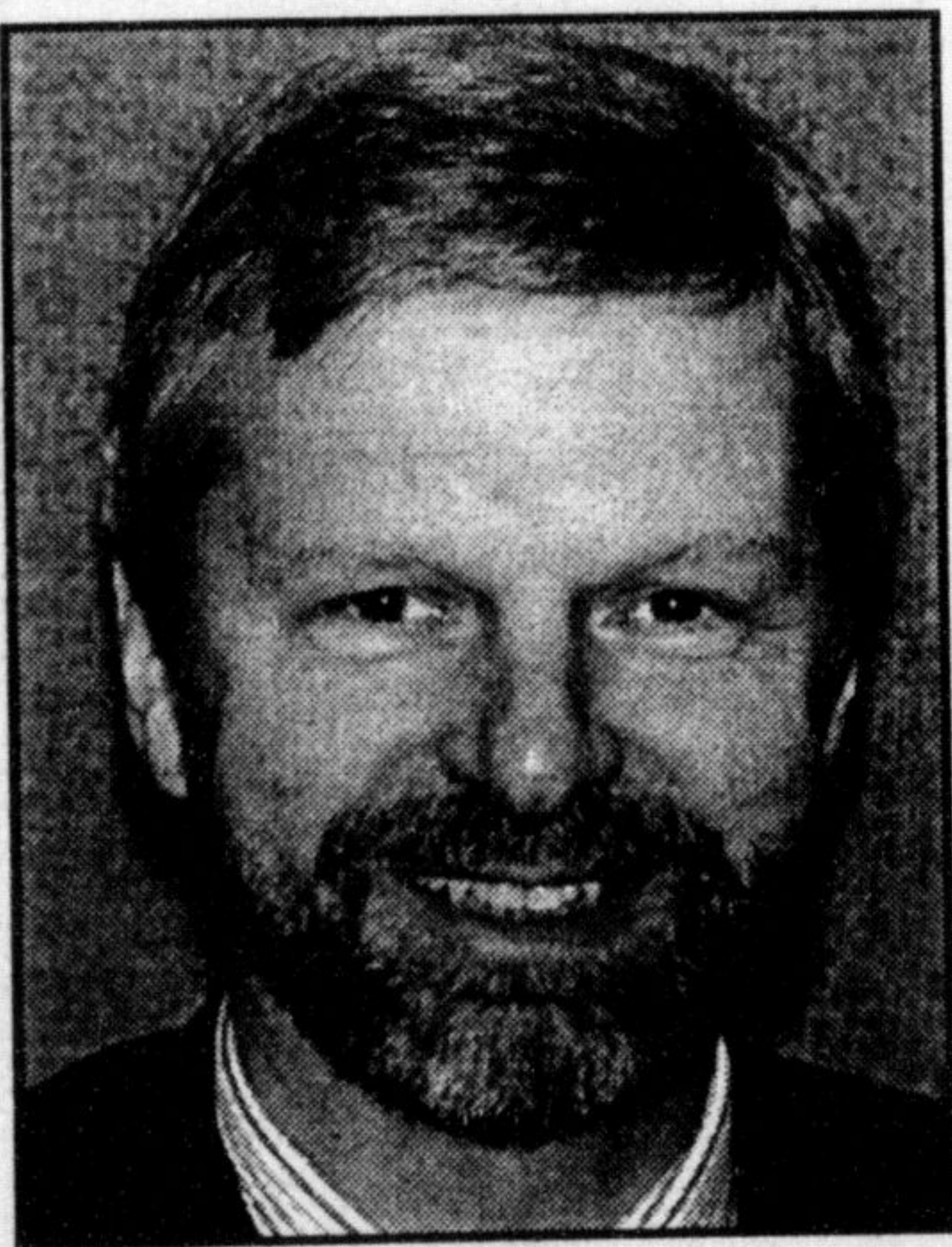


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Exploring new worlds

Wendy Graham and her six-year-old daughter Valerie enjoy "A Wasp Is Not A Bee", one of hundreds of books featured during Sunday's I Love to Read Festival at the Farm Museum.

Malmsten leaves Halton CAO job



Barry Malmsten

Halton Region's Barry Malmsten has left his post as chief administrative officer.

His resignation was announced by Halton Regional Chair Joyce Savoline in a news release Friday.

The release made only a brief mention of Mr. Malmsten's departure, instead focusing on his replacement.

Ms Savoline stated that Brent Marshall, commissioner of planning and public works, has been appointed to take over the helm in an acting capacity "until such time as a new CAO is appointed."

"Mr. Marshall is a long-term employee of the Region of Halton and has shown a high level of skill and leadership in each and every position he has held," she said.

She noted that council unanimously expressed its confidence in him.

"Brent's integrity and commitment to public service will serve Halton well as we face the challenges of uncertain and ever-changing circumstances in municipal government in Halton," Ms Savoline said. Ms Savoline, who was at a conference in Regina yesterday, was unavailable for comment.

NEWSLINES

Hospital change meeting on Friday

Milton residents can learn more about how the Milton-Oakville hospital amalgamation will affect local health care during a meeting at the Optimist Centre on Friday, June 12.

Health care experts will discuss proposed changes and address concerns during the public forum.

Invited panelists include Liberal Party health critic Gerard Kennedy, Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh, Milton Medical Staff Association President Dr. Walter Koslowski, plus

representatives from the Milton Ratepayers Association.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m.

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- Sat June 20, 10am-4pm