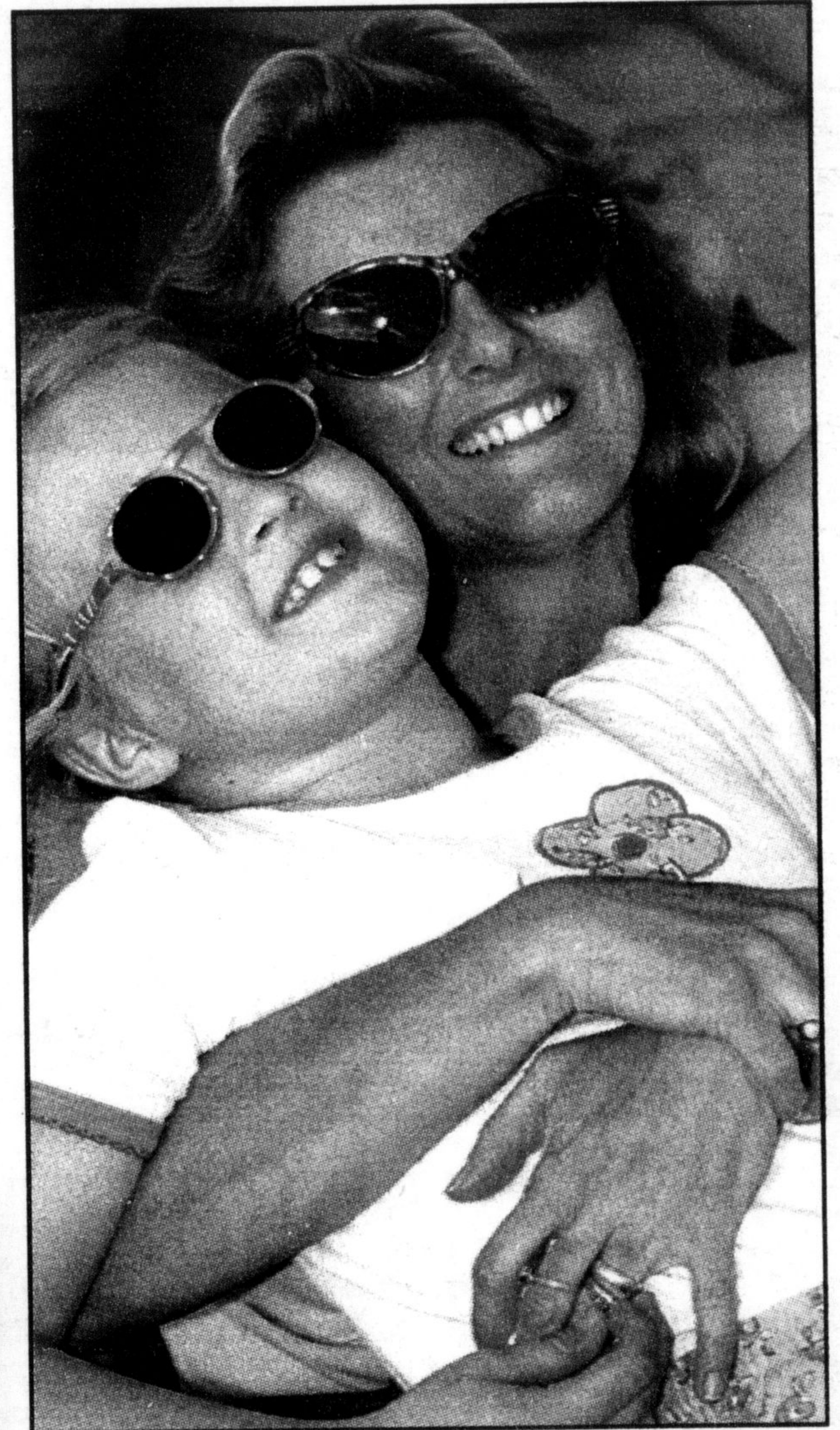




Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Flying high

All eyes were skyward over the weekend at Burlington Air Park during the SkyHigh Balloon Festival. Among those who enjoyed the three-day event were (above) local volunteer Joanne Hewitson and (far right) spectators Kira and Sally Krusky, each of whom were awestruck by the myriad of colourful balloons including those pictured at centre. See more photos on page 5.



Chief Campbell is stepping down

By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

It's official.

Halton Regional Police Chief Peter Campbell has announced he will turn in his badge at the end of the year.

The 55-year-old chief, who indicated he would only serve one term when he came to the force from the OPP five years ago, told The Champion yesterday he will leave after his contract is up December 31.

He has sent a letter officially indicating his intentions to the Halton Regional Police Services Board.

"Policing has been tremendously rewarding for me," he said of his 36-year career in law enforcement, noting the challenges and

opportunities it provided.

"It has given me a standard of living I never expected to achieve."

The chief said he has no plans to seek other employment, but didn't rule out the possibility. For now, he said he will take an extended holiday with his wife and enjoy life as much as possible.

He said he realizes it will be an adjustment to adapt to a retirement lifestyle after working in such a high-activity environment.

But his favourite pastimes such as golfing, curling, bridge and racquetball, coupled with travel to new destinations should help fill in the time, he said.

Services board chair Don Robinson said he's sorry to see Chief Campbell go.

"Yes, I would like to see him stay on. Is it

in the cards? No."

An internal and external search for a new chief is already underway after Chief Campbell indicated informally to the board several months ago that he didn't plan to renew his contract.

Mr. Robinson said the search is cost-effective, cutting straight to the chase.

Advertisements to fill the position have only been placed in Canadian police publications, through bulletins to other police forces and on the Halton police web site.

"We don't want to go crazy over this so we decided to do a limited national search," he said.

"We hope we will get some of our people interested in competing for it. I think we've

• see SEARCH on page 3

NEWSLINES

Native culture celebrated

Crawford Lake will present the 'Spirit Sings' event Sunday, July 26 from 7 to 10 p.m.

The evening will feature traditional teachings, native games and storytelling.

Pre-registration and pre-payment are required due to limited space.

Not recommended for kids aged under 8 years, the event costs \$10 for adults and \$7 for children and seniors.

As a special feature, a traditional native lunch (optional) will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. for an additional \$3.50 per person.

Crawford Lake is located at Guelph Line and Steeles Avenue.

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