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Ten plane flips since 1990, says safety board

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion
 Last Tuesday's float plane mishap in the Ottawa River isn't an uncommon occurrence, said a spokesman from the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. Jim Harris of the board said 10 similar crashes in which planes accidentally landed in water with the wheels down have happened since 1990. In all of the crashes, the injuries were at worst minor, Mr. Harris said. "These things happen from time to time, I'm afraid," he told *The Champion* Friday. Greg Cross, 43, of Main Street in Milton was landing a float plane full of six adolescent campers and a counsellor July 21 when the aircraft flipped over. None of the occupants were injured. The six girls from Quebec and New Brunswick were on a sightseeing tour of the countryside regularly offered to kids at Camp Les Voyageurs — a Tim Hortons-funded camp for disadvantaged children — in Quyon, Quebec. Mr. Harris said there's no question the plane's wheels were down when landing, and human error was likely the cause. A panel inside the plane illuminates to inform the pilot that the wheels are down. Mr. Harris said the board is looking into how effective the safety system is as part of its investigation into the crash.

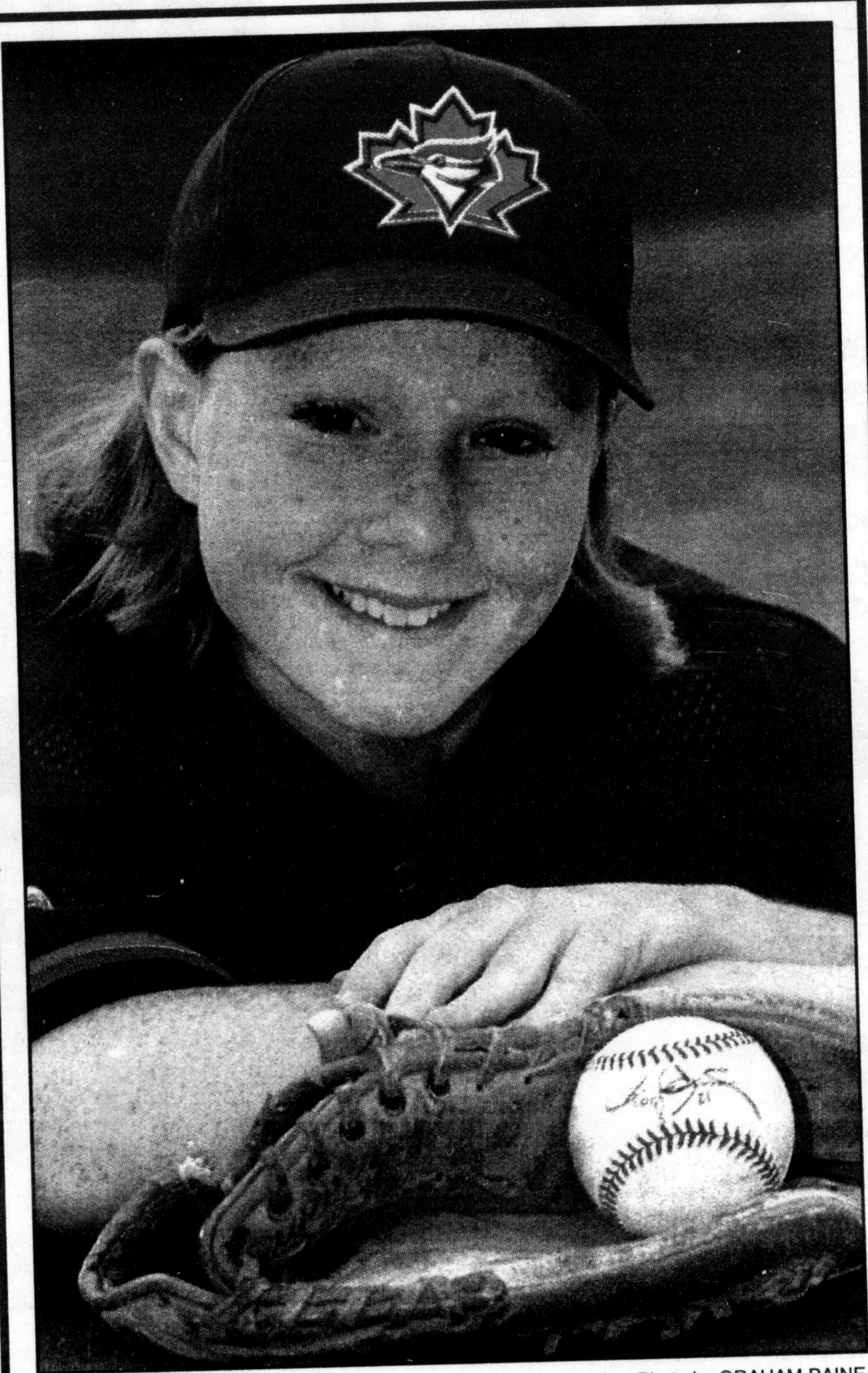


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Clemens' co-star

Milton's Amee-Lynn May, seen here with an autographed Roger Clemens baseball, is currently starring in a commercial with *The Rocket*. See page 18 for story.

Hospital is talking to baby doctors

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

Milton District Hospital has been in discussions with several medical specialists in the search for an obstetrician, officials say. "It is hoped that arrangements can be completed by early fall for a specialist to establish a practice in the community and provide the necessary service," said hospital administrator Allan Halls.

Aiming to reassure pregnant Milton women that full obstetrical services will be restored soon, Mr. Halls said two local physicians are still handling deliveries and Dr. Sushil Suppal, who is performing specialist duties this month, will continue to provide coverage in August. "Once a new specialist has been recruited, it's anticipated that other family physicians will once again handle deliveries," he said.

Feeling medically and legally vulnerable, three local doctors recently decided to stop delivering babies because Milton has no back up obstetrician in case of complications.

And three other local physicians either dropped out of the Milton medical scene or slowed down their practices for various reasons.

As a result, pregnant patients of local doctors no longer delivering are being referred to Oakville and Burlington hospitals to have their babies.

"We began our search for a new specialist in January of this year," said Dr. Don

Robertson, Milton's chief of staff.

"Dr. Sushil Suppal, who has been our obstetrician for seven years, was planning his retirement."

Mr. Halls said doctors practicing in smaller communities frequently feel the pressure of being on call 24 hours a day — a scenario that shies many doctors away from the position.

The administrator will become senior vice-president of the new hospital corporation when Milton and Oakville hospitals officially complete the amalgamation process Saturday.

Dr. Lorne Martin will be the new chief of staff for the corporation. "The Oakville site will be made available to the Milton obstetrician for higher risk obstetrics or complicated surgical procedures.



Allan Halls

Teenager falls, lucky to escape serious injury

A 14-year-old Milton youth was lucky to escape serious injury after she fell 13 feet from the Millside Drive trestle.

An off-duty ambulance attendant who lives nearby heard the teen's screams shortly after 3 p.m. and rushed to help.

The youth was crossing to the south side of the trestle — the cement bridge support for the CN

railway tracks — when she lost her footing and fell into part of the concrete Sixteen Mile Creek channel behind the Milton Curling Club.

The rescuer administered first aid to the youth until an ambulance arrived and took her to Milton District Hospital, said Det. Sgt. Jackie Gordon of Halton Regional Police.

The teen, who was taking a short cut to her

home, was treated for minor injuries and released.

The area is usually posted with no trespassing signs by both the railway and Halton Region Conservation Authority, but vandals had removed them, Det. Sgt. Gordon said.

Police, which are looking into getting the signs replaced, warn citizens to avoid the dangerous area.

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