

The Canadian Champion

138
SERVING MILTON FOR
YEARS

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 139 No. 58

Tuesday, September 29, 1998

28 Pages

75¢ (GST included)

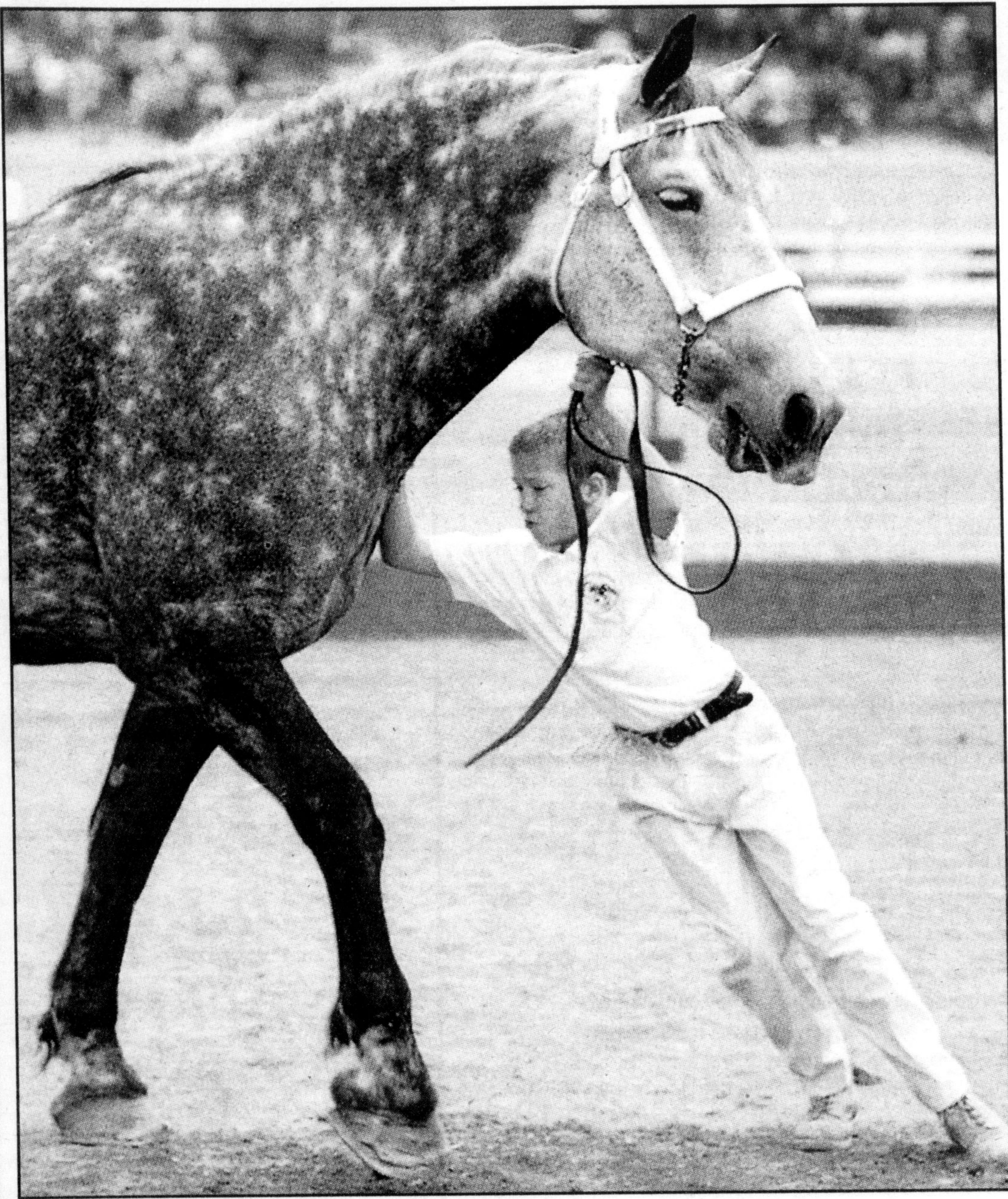


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Easy, big fella

Campbellville's Pat Stokes, 10, had his hands full showing this giant Percheron in the heavy horse showmanship class Saturday at the Milton Fall Fair. See page 8 for more fair photos.

Catholic board chair is blasting both sides

By ROD JERRED

Special to The Champion

The two sides in the Halton Catholic secondary school teachers' labour dispute were scheduled to meet Monday, but a settlement appeared highly unlikely.

On the eve of the meeting, the chair of the Halton Catholic District School Board was calling for provincial government intervention and the head of the teachers' union was accusing the board of bargaining in bad faith.

For the second time in two weeks, the Halton board has joined six other large Ontario Catholic school boards in demanding the province step in to settle the three-week-old teachers' labour dispute.

The first written request for government intervention, dated September 16, has so far been ignored, said Halton Catholic District School Board Chair Jim Sherlock.

The second letter was sent September 21 and is signed by the chairs of the Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Toronto, Durham, Dufferin-Peel, York and Simcoe-Muskoka boards. Together, the seven boards represent 300,000 students or 75 per cent of Ontario's secondary school population.

Mr. Sherlock said the board is caught in the middle of a "power struggle" between the Toronto-based union and Queen's Park.

'Pathetic power struggle'

In a press release issued last week, Mr. Sherlock posed the same question to both Ontario Premier Mike Harris and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA): "Don't you think that our students have been punished enough by your pathetic, political power struggle?"

In the joint letter to Premier Mike Harris the chairs claim the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) is "unwilling to negotiate requirements of the Education Act and which do not negatively impact on students."

But Joe Pece, president of the Halton unit of OECTA said Mr. Sherlock's actions are a clear "abdication of authority" on his part.

"It's easy for him to pass that buck," said Mr. Pece, "but I'm not going to pass that buck."

"I think they don't have any intention of negotiating with us," he added. "That constitutes bad faith bargaining."

The main stumbling block in negotiations is the requirement under Bill 160 that secondary school teachers' instructional workloads be increased to 1,250 minutes.

Halton and other Catholic school boards have interpreted this by telling teachers they must teach seven of eight classes instead of six of eight as in past years.

No sports or clubs

While a full-fledged strike is not in effect in Halton, teachers have responded by curtailing extra-curricular activities and refusing to teach the fourth class in their daily schedule.

In an interview Mr. Sherlock said teachers appear unwilling to compromise over the class-time issue and fears the labour unrest may jeopardize the school year.

• see ANNOYED on page 3

Impaired charges as man killed

Drunk driving charges have been laid in a single-car crash that claimed the life of a 37-year-old Georgetown man early Saturday morning.

Christopher Wilson, 35, the front passenger in the 1996 Ford Explorer, was pronounced dead at the scene of the 3 a.m. crash.

Mr. Wilson was thrown from the vehicle and died instantly after the northbound car went out of control on a bend on Sixth Line, two kilometres south of Britannia Road, police said.

The driver and another passenger were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Charged with criminal negligence causing death, impaired driving causing death and driving with over the legal limit of alcohol in his blood is Christopher Garrett, 37, of Georgetown.

He was released on his own recognition after appearing before a justice of the peace Saturday. He's scheduled to appear again in Milton court October 19.

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Drop off toddlers for an hour

Parents can drop off their children at Milton District High School as part of the school's grade 11 parenting class.

Students of the class are looking for two, three and four-year-olds to attend Playschool from 10:10 to 11:20 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from October 13 to December 17.

If interested, call the school at 878-2839 or drop in for an application.

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Fall

Home Show
September 30 - October 3

55 ONTARIO ST. (905) 878-3900

Mon-Fri 9:30-9:00, Sat 9:30-8:00, Sun 12-5

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