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✓ Have a seat

Three-year-old Sarah Waddell learns the basics of skating with the aid of a balancing chair during a recent public skate at John Tonelli Sports Centre. Meanwhile, two-year-old Ethan (inset) gets a steady hand from dad Kevin Samson. It was only Ethan's second time on skates.

Photos by
GRAHAM PAINE

✓ Shocked school community goes on, cops are still hunting suspects

By **KAREN SMITH**

The Champion

The E.C. Drury sports building remained closed earlier this week pending a structural examination by a building inspector after last week's massive fire.

Insurance adjusters and building inspectors were expected on the scene to survey the damage, E.C. Drury High School principal Linda Heaver said Monday. The facility was shut down to be checked for safety hazards.

"It was quite a shock," she said, describing her reaction to news last Friday that the school's recreation centre had been targeted by vandals. They broke in overnight and set the gym on fire. "It's quite a mess."

Fire ripped through one of two gymnasiums and an upstairs wrestling room, causing smoke damage to most of the free-standing building that also housed a swimming pool and offices.

Destroyed were expensive wrestling mats, basketball nets and championship banners.

The building is owned by the Ontario Realty Corporation, a

provincial government agency, and the contents belong to the Halton District School Board, Ms Heaver said.

She said students and teachers have gone over the ordeal in their minds, trying to make sense of the vandalism that's being treated as arson by police and fire investigators.

Ms Heaver said people have speculated about what prompted the culprits to set the fire, which cancelled last Saturday's wrestling tourney and left several sporting groups without use of a facility.

But Halton Regional Police had no leads to report in their search for the suspects, Det. Sgt. Jackie Gordon said Tuesday.

Ms Heaver said teachers planned to discuss the incident with students to promote communication in case anyone has any information.

NEWSLINES

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✓ Laptop taken from church

St. George's Anglican Church was the target of a thief who made off with a laptop computer last week.

The culprit broke into the Guelph Line and Derry Road church office with use of an unknown tool sometime between 7:30 p.m. January 13 and 5:30 p.m. January 15, Halton police said.

The Macintosh computer was worth \$1,000.

✓ Thieves working ski area

By **KAREN SMITH**

The Champion

Persistent snowboard thefts at Glen Eden Ski Area have prompted Halton police to issue a warning for patrons of the facility.

"Police are urging people going to the ski area to take the necessary steps to secure their property," said Det. Sgt. Jackie Gordon.

Numerous snowboards and some ski equipment have been stolen "almost every

single day" over the last month, she said.

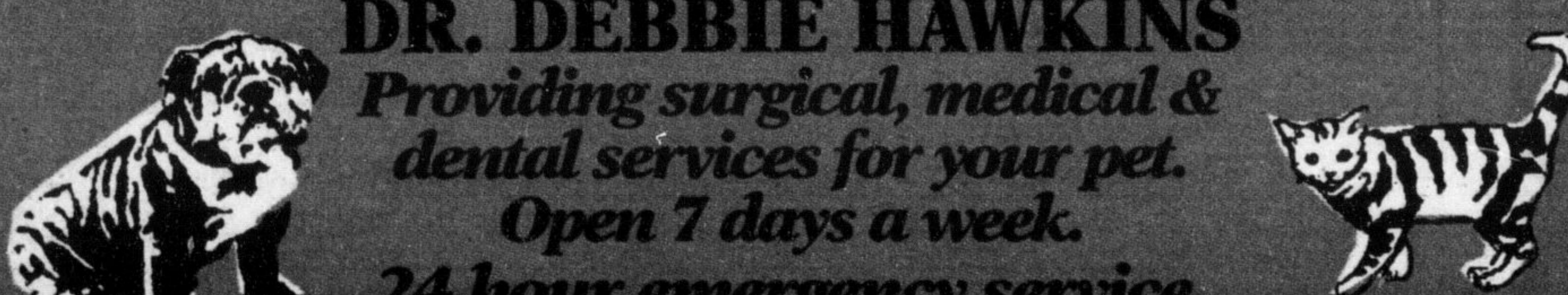
Since late December, police have received 14 reports of stolen snowboards and two for thefts of ski equipment. Each loss ranged from \$200 to \$700.

Despite the availability of racks patrons can use to lock up their equipment, most of the stolen items were left unattended and unsecured at the ski chalet, Det. Sgt. Gordon said.

• see **SNOWBOARDS** on page 8

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