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# Weekend Champion



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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## ✓ Colour of life

Natalie Smurthwaite reflects on a panel of the Life Quilt for Breast Cancer at Milton Mall recently. The panel made a two day pit stop in Milton during a cross-county tour aimed at raising awareness of the disease.

## ✓ Hearing begins in Heseltine case

A preliminary hearing in a substantial stolen property case began earlier this week in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton.

Several witnesses took the stand at the Tuesday hearing, held to determine if enough evidence exists in the case to go to trial.

Grant Heseltine faces more than a dozen charges in connection with Halton Regional Police discovering approximately \$20,000 worth of property at a Martin

Street home in April.

Police allege the property — which included groceries, household supplies and clothing — was stolen from several local businesses.

A publication ban of evidence heard Tuesday was ordered by the judge, a common practice at preliminary hearings. The hearing is expected to last one more day. Mr. Heseltine will return to court April 19 to set a date to continue the hearing.

## Hospital now has choice of two docs

By IRENE GENTLE  
*The Champion*

Negotiations are underway to bring a new baby doctor on board at Milton District Hospital.

Successful interviews with two candidates last Sunday have put Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) into bargaining mode, reported search committee chair and associate chief of staff Dr. Don Robertson.

HHS runs the amalgamated Milton District and Oakville Trafalgar Memorial hospitals.

"We'd be happy with either person," said Dr. Robertson. "As far as we're concerned they'd both be excellent choices."

If an obstetrician is hired soon, Milton's baby ward could re-open as early as this summer, he said.

The ward shut down November 1 of last year after Dr. Sushil Suppal left his post as Milton's only full-time obstetrician.

At the time, he had held the position for eight years and was on call 24 hours a day. He withdrew from the job after his contract expired.

On the heels of his departure, three local family doctors who had previously delivered babies stopped doing so. They said they felt uncomfortable delivering the babies without the emergency back-up of an obstetrician.

"Those three decided it wasn't safe to continue a full practice without a full-time obstetrician," said Dr. Robertson.

The spectre of litigation is one possible cause for the discomfort.

Though Dr. Robertson denied that litigation was up in the obstetrics field, he agreed that patient expectations have risen

over the years.

"The expectations of patients are probably higher than they were before," he acknowledged. "Everybody expects a healthy baby but there are always risks. It's always a bit of a gamble, having a baby."

When the search for an obstetrician began, hospital officials conceded it might not be reasonable to expect the new doctor to be perpetually on call.

Now, with two candidates close to the finish line, hours are definitely on the bargaining table, confirmed Dr. Robertson.

"We'd have to negotiate that with them, but they'd have regular weekends and time off for vacations," he said.

That means during off hours, Milton women will likely still be transferred to Oakville or Burlington hospitals for their care, said Dr. Robertson.

### NEWSLINES

#### Kids wanted

Students of Milton District High School's parenting class are looking for children aged 2 to 4 years to come to Playschool.

Playschool is held for free at the Williams Avenue high school during period 2 from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from March 23 to May 27.

If interested, call the school at 878-2839 or drop in for an application. After hours, call 847-8028.

#### WEEKEND INSERTS

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- Lazy Boy • Maxi & Co • Misty Blue Ceramic
- Moore's The Suit People • No Frills • Patriot Computers
- Radio Shack • Sears • Walmart • Work World

## ✓ Grit tussle postponed

The provincial Liberal party remains without a local candidate after a scheduled nomination meeting was postponed recently.

Nominees Paul Tate of Milton, Halton Hills' John Day and Mohan Anand of Oakville were set to go head to head for the position last Saturday (March 6).

The winner would have come out fight-

• see CHOICE on page 11

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