



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Catch of the day

Justin Tutt, 11, shows off his catch of the day, a half-pound speckled trout, during the Mill Pond Fishing Derby Saturday. Hundreds of area youngsters came out for the annual event to enjoy a day of free fishing.

Police board looks inward after Colorado

By HOWARD MOZEL
Special to The Champion

While there's no way to say with absolute certainty a tragedy like the Columbine High School shootings can't happen here, Halton's police chief maintains the chances are far more remote than in the United States.

"I think an incident ... can happen here although it's less likely," said Chief Ean Algar. "I think we're a pretty safe society."

Canada is a far less violent society in general, Chief Algar continued, due in part to current gun laws. In addition, he sees a widespread willingness here to work together as a community to head off such disasters before they explode. The result is that Halton remains the safest area in Canada with a population over 100,000.

"We don't wait until we have a crisis," said Chief Algar, speaking to the successful youth-oriented programs and services now in place — some led by police. "We are a leader in change. We are willing to change."

The high school massacre in Littleton, Colorado was raised

at a recent Police Services Board meeting during a progress report on Halton's Pre-Court Youth Diversion Program.

This initiative is designed to re-direct young people who commit crimes from the traditional court system prior to charging them with offenses. The program is the first of its kind in Canada, perhaps North America, and integrates the resources of 20 social agencies and others.

Although such offenses as serious violence, sexual assault, domestic assaults and residential break-and-enters are not eligible for the program, talk at the board meeting inevitably turned to the unthinkable.

Mass media notwithstanding, said Alan Leschied, associate

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NEWSLINES

Hot car spot

A car thief chose the Gordon Food Service parking lot as a drop-off and pick-up point for stolen vehicles.

The culprit left a 1988 Plymouth Sundance stolen from Burlington in the lot April 19 and then took a dark green 1992 Chevrolet Blazer.

The Blazer was recovered on the Hamilton mountain at Limeridge Mall.

The thief also attempted to steal a 1991 Chevrolet pick-up truck, but only managed to take the stereo.

INSERTS

- Fortinos (rural)
- Lansing (P)
- Pizza Hut (P)
- Revlon
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Zellers

Youths are facing some stiff charges after park fracas

Three Milton youths face charges after a 13-year-old male was roughed up and robbed near Rotary Park Friday night.

The victim was riding his bike on Martin Street, just north of Main Street, shortly after 8 p.m. when he was approached by three youths.

The youths demanded his baseball cap and when he refused he was pushed off his bike and assaulted by the trio, police said.

One of the youths threatened to shoot him, but no gun was seen. They then took the bike and left. A short time later, the victim located his bike and police were called.

Officers attended the area and located one suspect. Two others were arrested a short time later. No weapon was found.

The suspects were known to the victim, said Det. Sgt. Jackie Gordon.

A 17-year-old youth faces charges of robbery, theft under \$5,000, assault, threatening death and breach of probation. A 15-year-old youth is charged with robbery, assault and theft under \$5,000. The pair were held for bail hearings yesterday.

Another 15-year-old youth is charged with theft under \$5,000 in connection with the incident. He will appear in court May 21.

Heseltine hearing is on in September

The preliminary hearing in a stolen property case will continue September 1.

The first day of the hearing into charges against Grant Heseltine was held March 9, but more time was needed.

The date for continuation was set in Ontario Court (provincial division) in Milton last week.

Mr. Heseltine faces more than a dozen charges in connection with Halton Regional Police discovering approxi-

mately \$20,000 worth of property at a Martin Street home last April.

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

A publication ban on evidence heard March 9 was ordered by the judge, a common practice at preliminary hearings.

The hearing is expected to wrap up September 1.



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