

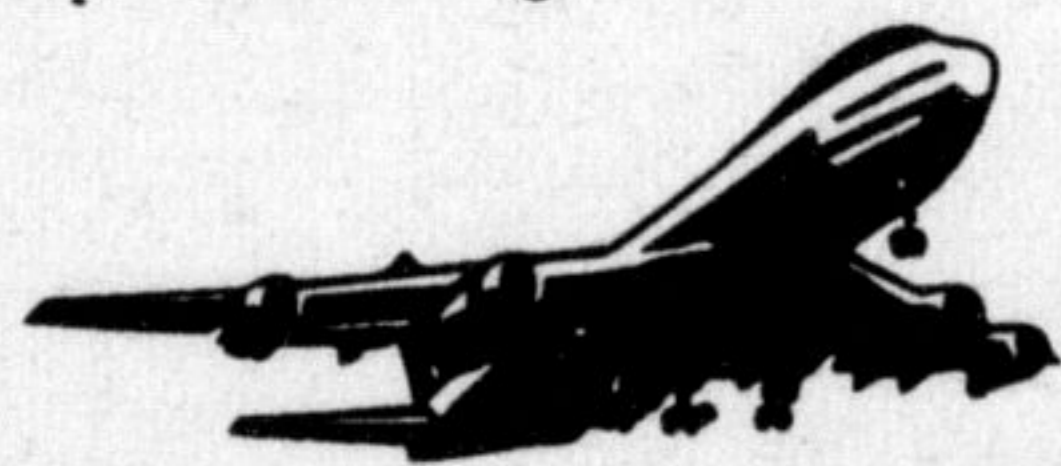
## Travel

with  
*Bruce Hood*



### SOME GOOD TRAVEL NEWS — SOME NOT SO GOOD?

**CHRISTMAS/MILLENNIUM VACATION PACKAGE PRICES ARE DOWN** from the original predictions and settings as companies like SIGNATURE VACATIONS advise TRAVEL AGENTS to check pricing in their computers for Christmas/Millennium packages. Brochure prices are out of whack as many hoteliers, especially in the Caribbean, are slashing prices to fill empty rooms, allowing the operator to re-cost its packages. For example, Allegro's Jack Tar St. Kitt's had gone from \$2,369 per person to \$1,298 for a Dec. 20 departure. "THERE'S SPACE AVAILABLE AND THE PRICES FOR CHRISTMAS WILL NEVER BE AS GOOD AS THIS YEAR" according to Martha Chapman, spokesperson for Signature.



**HIGHER AIRFARES FEARED AS AIR CANADA MOVES CLOSER TO TAKING OVER CANADIAN** — were substantiated in the consumers' mind with a 3% increase 'due to fuel charge increases' applied this week. The recommendation by Canadian's board of directors for shareholders to accept the offer from AC for a \$92-million takeover bid has changed the setting for air travel for Canadians. Douglas Reid, a professor of business strategy at Queen's University said airfares have increased by as much as 22 percent in U.S. cities dominated by one carrier. Canadian transport minister David Collette says Ottawa will prevent Air Canada from gouging consumers and slashing jobs. Charter carriers CANADA 3000 and ROYAL AIRLINES will be expected to expand their services across our nation to aid competition. It has been a topsy-turvy year for those involved in the travel industry for the past few years, but none like the past many months. WILL THE CONSUMER BENEFIT FROM ALL OF THIS? A good question and all the more reason to DEAL DIRECTLY WITH A TRAVEL AGENT to know you SEE ALL THE BEST IN PRICE AND ROUTING ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO YOU!

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**DID YOU KNOW: A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA! A PERSONALLY AUTOGRAPHED COPY** of the newest book on Canada's favourite sport, hockey — "THE GOOD OF THE GAME" by this bestseller author/writer. The 'Official' launch of the popular book is this weekend.

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# Tykes reach title game of tournament

Watch out for that last step up the championship ladder — it's a doozy.

Milton's tykes made it all the way to the finals of the recent Brampton Tournament, only to be humbled by Clarington 8-0. Despite a solid effort, the local rink rats had all sorts of trouble at both ends of the ice against their powerhouse opponents.

En route to the title match the boys won two of three games including a tournament opening victory against Vaughan, 2-1. Brandon Denham deposited the winning goal while also scoring was Michael Sgarbossa.

The Winterhawks' other triumph came against the hosts — who were toppled 4-1. Denham tallied twice with singles potted by Sgarbossa and Lauren Kelly.

Milton highlighted the tournament by winning the skills competition. Goaltender Spencer Abraham led the way by turned back all but one of 40 shots in the showcase.

The tykes have been looking good in league play as well, with three of four possible points secured in their last pair of outings.

They tied Brampton 2-2 — on goals by Abraham and Sgarbossa — and engineered a late rally to shade Hespeler 2-1.

Jeffrey Clarke provided the heroics in that one with a last-minute game winner, shortly after Sgarbossa evened the count.

#### Letdowns prove costly

The AA minor atoms' light has been burning bright — just not quite long enough.

Recently Milton has fallen flat during the late

## Rep Hockey

stages of play, surrendering leads established through strong starts.

Sunday was a prime example of this current dilemma. The Machine Shop Winterhawks were ahead after periods one and two before a late collapse — resulting in six goals against in the final frame — eventually saw them lose 7-4.

This was the team's third straight defeat and dropped them to 6-9-3.

Jeff Lynch figured in all the scoring, potting the first three goals himself and then capping off a standout performance by setting up Michael Brown.

Posting assists on goals one and four was Brad Mewhinney. Brown, Mac Fillman and Jon Monk drew single helpers.

Netminder Joey De'Athe suffered through an onslaught in the third — facing nearly twice as much shots as he did during the two previous periods combined.

Milton will try to break their faltering ways at Memorial Arena Sunday when they play host to Hespeler. Game time is 4:15 p.m.

#### Rough ride for 'Hawks

Milton's AA major atoms had little to show for a rather busy stretch of three games in five days — winning just once.

Their victory came against Brampton. Brendan Duke's solid cage work and a balanced attack allowed them to win 5-3.

Leading offensively with a goal and two assists was Luc Hartwick. Scott McTrach buried the game winner just moments into the third while an insurance marker was deposited one minute later by Ryan Black.

Blake Frittenburg and Connor Mitchell also scored — and each picked up an assist.

The Herman Miller Winterhawks fell victim to the revenge game two days later — losing to Brampton 4-2. Tim Johnston gave a credible performance between the pipes while scoring was done by Chad Boisvenue and Chris Coates.

From there, the local lads were edged by Burlington 4-3. Milton's marksmen were Frittenburg, Jeremy Brown and Kyle Walker.

#### Winning ways continue

And the wins just keep on coming for Milton's A major novices.

The Sandstone Transport Winterhawks came through with a home-and-home series sweep of Georgetown last week, winning 6-1 and 3-1.

The more convincing victory was delivered on the road. John Grant and Jonathan Riding tallied twice while singles went to Tyler LaFontaine and Wade McGinnis.

Jordan Haggart drew a pair of assists and guarding the net in fine fashion was Keenan Farrell.

Two days later the local club held the fort once again, this time thanks to the crafty cage work of Adrian Eppinger.

Kris DelNin stood out with two goals and scoring the other was McGinnis. Grant had another big game with a couple of assists, as did Haggart and Brad Mazzocato.

### Fierce finish to OSS season

## Silver Sam pulls off upset to win last race of year

When Mohawk Raceway's starting gate pulled away from the field in the final Ontario Sires Stakes event of the millennium Monday, fans were already wishing they had paid a little more attention to Silver Sam.

Leaving from Post 9, driver Ron Waples had hit the gas and the fan's fifth choice had responded with an impressive burst of speed that landed her squarely ahead of the favourites.

After a :28.2 opening fraction, the veteran reinsman measure off a pair of perfectly rated 30-second quarters for the filly while the rest of the field started to turn up the heat.

When the two-year-old trotting fillies turned for home and Silver Sam did not budge off the rail, fans who had expected her to swing wide the way she had in the elimination knew they were holding losing tickets.

Although elimination winner Earl Of My Dreams mounted a challenge through the stretch, at the wire it was Silver Sam posting the 2:00 victory and laying claim to the freshman trotting filly division title.

In return for their loyalty, Silver Sam rewarded her backers with \$28.90 for a win ticket, \$9.10 for show and \$670 for place. Favourite Earl Of Dreams was one-and-a-half lengths back in second with Ob La Da two more lengths behind for third.

Afterward, Waples credited an equipment change made by trainer Richard Gelinas with keeping Silver Sam on the rail and in a position to win her first Gold Series Final.

"Richard and I talked after I schooled her the other morning (last Friday) and he decided to put a murphy blind on the outside of her and it helped her, as a matter of fact it made her go the other way a little bit," he said. "She's an excellent gaited filly with speed, she's just had trouble with her steering ever since I started driving her. I look for her to come back and be a real decent filly next year."

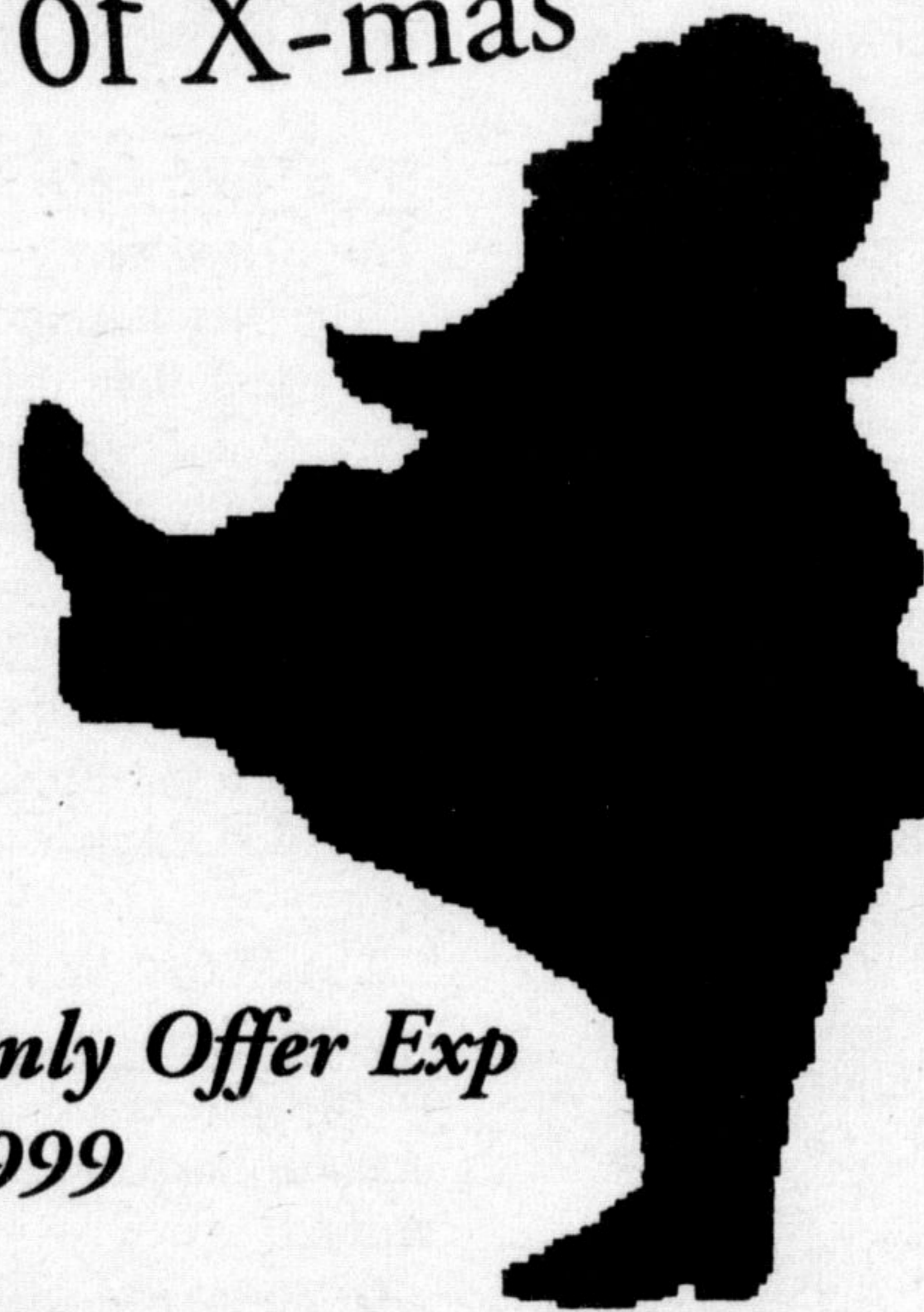
The win was Silver Sam's fifth of the season in 13 tries and boosted her bank balance to \$164,644 — with \$117,710 of that coming from Ontario Sires Stakes competition.

In addition to her OSS division crown, the filly's November 20 Canadian Breeders victory should make her a candidate for year-end honours at the national level.

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