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# Weekend Champion



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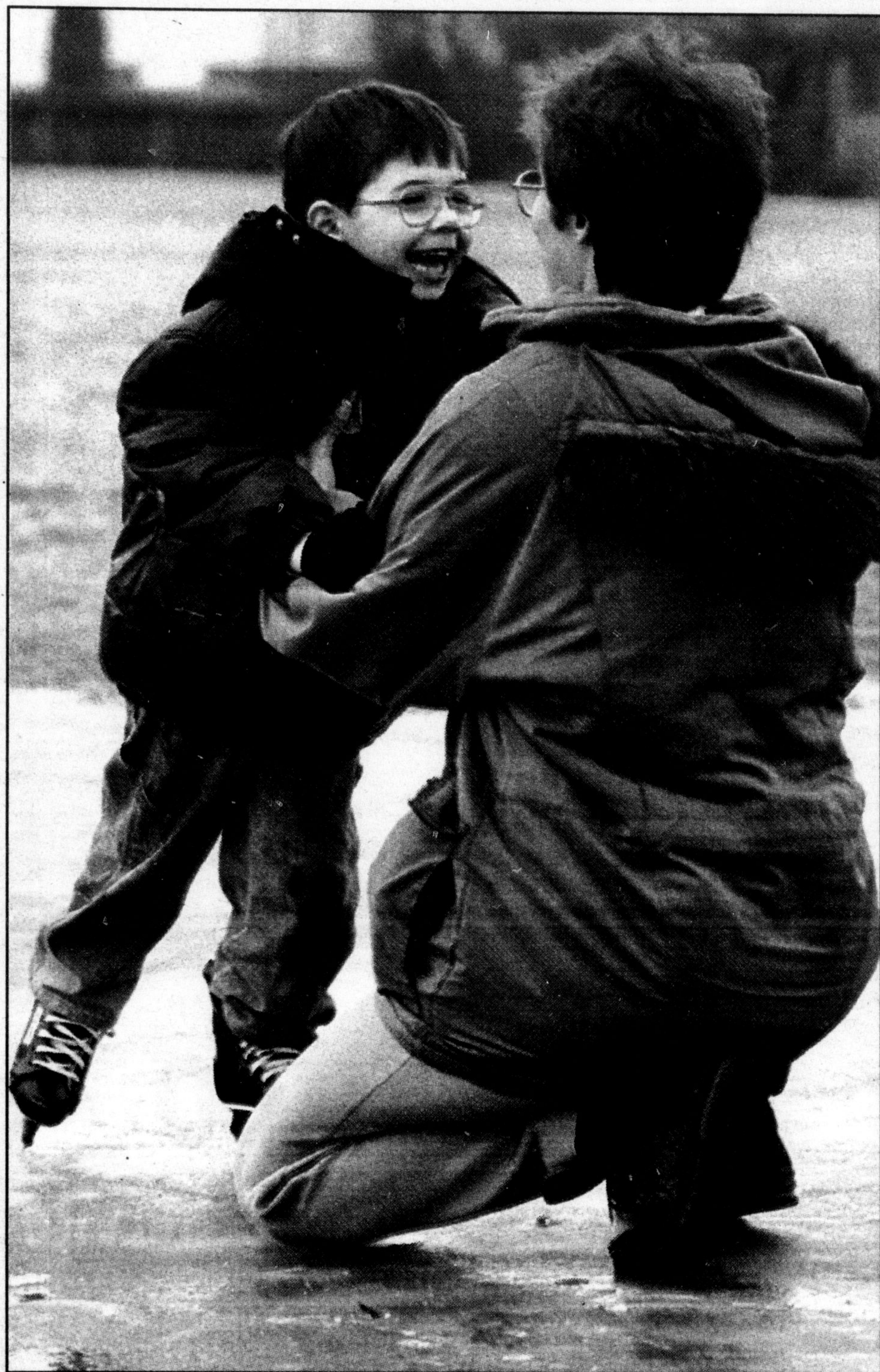


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Freshman fun

Five-year-old Brandon Borisavljevic beams with delight at his mother Kim during his first-ever skate. The pair found a frozen ice patch at J.M. Denyes School Sunday.

### Region reveals

# Well drill cause of brown water

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

A back-up well drilled in 1996 is likely the real culprit behind Milton's continuing brown water woes, the Region has revealed.

In drilling the well, the Region struck a vein of naturally-occurring manganese that has been stirring up trouble in Milton's water ever since.

"It's a naturally occurring deposit that happened in glacial times," said the Region's special studies engineer Judy MacDonald. "When we drilled a well in 1996, we happened to have tapped into

## Influenza outbreak controlled

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

In contrast to the largely toothless Y2K bug, the flu bug has been packing a nasty bite this season.

An outbreak of influenza A has been reported in the chronic care unit of Milton District Hospital (MDH).

The official confirmation of the outbreak came in January 4. Seven patients were affected.

But the toll isn't growing, said Shirley Lanza, professional practice clinician in infection control with Halton Healthcare Services.

"The outbreak is under control," she said. "Since Tuesday there have been no new cases."

The unit was immediately closed for new admissions and transfers, in keeping with Ministry of Health (MOH) guidelines.

• see INFLUENZA on page 7

"It's an issue we see as a serious one, and one we're spending a lot of time and effort to resolve."

RIC ROBERTSHAW

this manganese layer."

The well, found in Kelso Conservation Area, serves mostly west-end residents.

Manganese is a harmless mineral that's found in multi-vitamin supplements. Though colourless when dissolved, it will turn black with oxidation.

Main breaks and pipe cleaning processes can accidentally oxidize the manganese, resulting in a flow of muddy-looking water from Milton taps.

And adding bleaching agents such as Javex to manganese-rich water can also cause it to turn a clothes-staining brown colour.

• see WATER on page 7

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