

Attention to teen smoking issue is essential: Mulvale

• from SURVEY on page 5

he said. "Access to tobacco, even the price of tobacco, is so important."

And something has to be done to curb another generation's taste for tobacco, he added. "Every day in Halton, someone dies from a tobacco-related disease."

A first tobacco offence carries a small fine, which may not deter retailers from plumbing an underage market. But strike two packs a hard economic punch, he said. A second offence means the retailer is prohibited from selling tobacco for six months.

Attention to the matter is essential, said Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale. She pointed to another staff report which cited that tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death in Canada, claiming 40,000

lives annually.

According to the report, it kills three times more Canadians than alcohol, AIDS, illicit drugs, suicide, car accidents, suicide and murder combined.

"It doesn't matter what we're doing as long as we're being vigilant," said Ms Mulvale. "The cost is just horrendous."

But compliance to the TCA is getting better in Halton, said Ms Mulvale.

A similar survey early in 1999 showed six per cent of both Milton and Burlington retailers sold cigarettes to the minors. In Halton Hills, that number was 15 per cent, while a whopping 31 per cent of Oakville retailers then went through with the sale.

That led to a regional total of 16 per cent.

Calling all parents of teens

Parents are invited to learn more about high school education Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The Halton District School Board will host information sessions that night at Milton District and E.C. Drury high schools.

Parents who have students entering high school in September 2000 are urged to attend the session closest to their home.

Both of the sessions will begin at 7 p.m.

For details, contact the school office.

Got a hot scoop? We'd love to hear your story ideas. Call our newsroom at 878-2341, ext. 234.

ATTENTION -- PARENTS OF GRADE 8 STUDENTS

You are invited to attend a PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Parents of students who are planning to attend Milton high schools in September 2000 are welcome to come and hear more about the Grade 9 program, services for students, and diploma requirements. Parents should attend the Parents' Information Night at their home school (the school designated for their community).

For more information, please contact the school office.

Milton District High School (878-2839) E.C. Drury High School (878-0575)
Wednesday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m.



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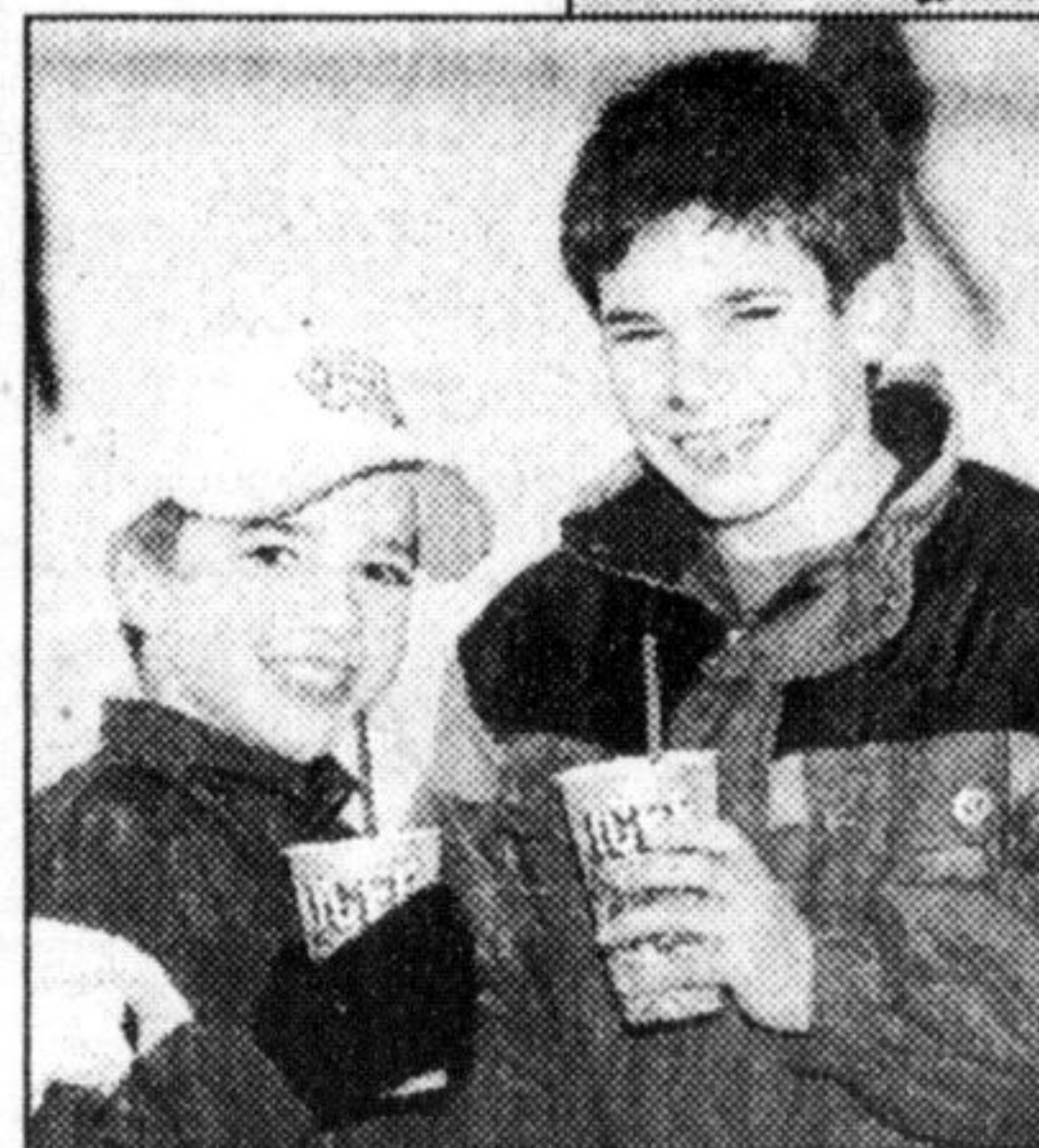
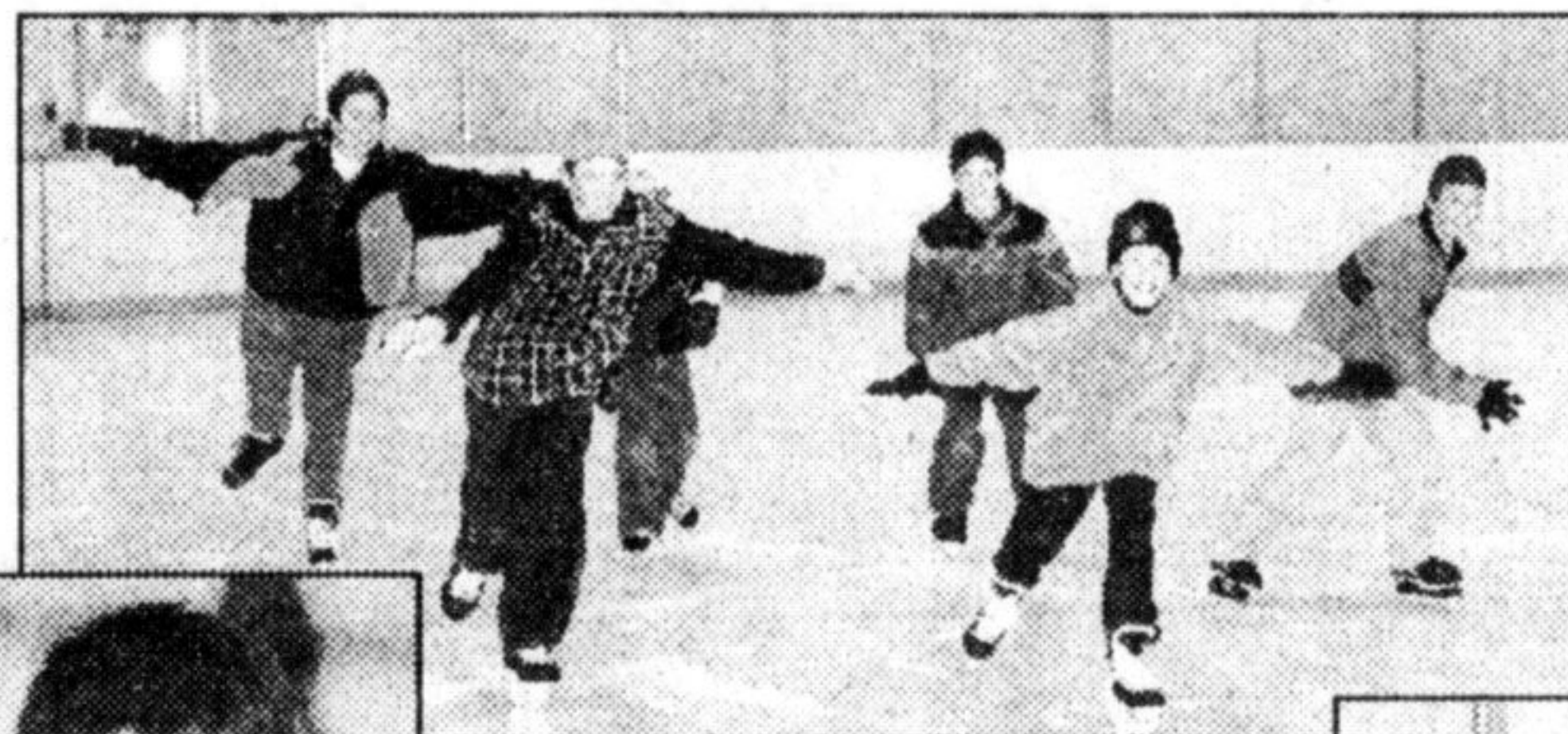
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