

# The Canadian Champion

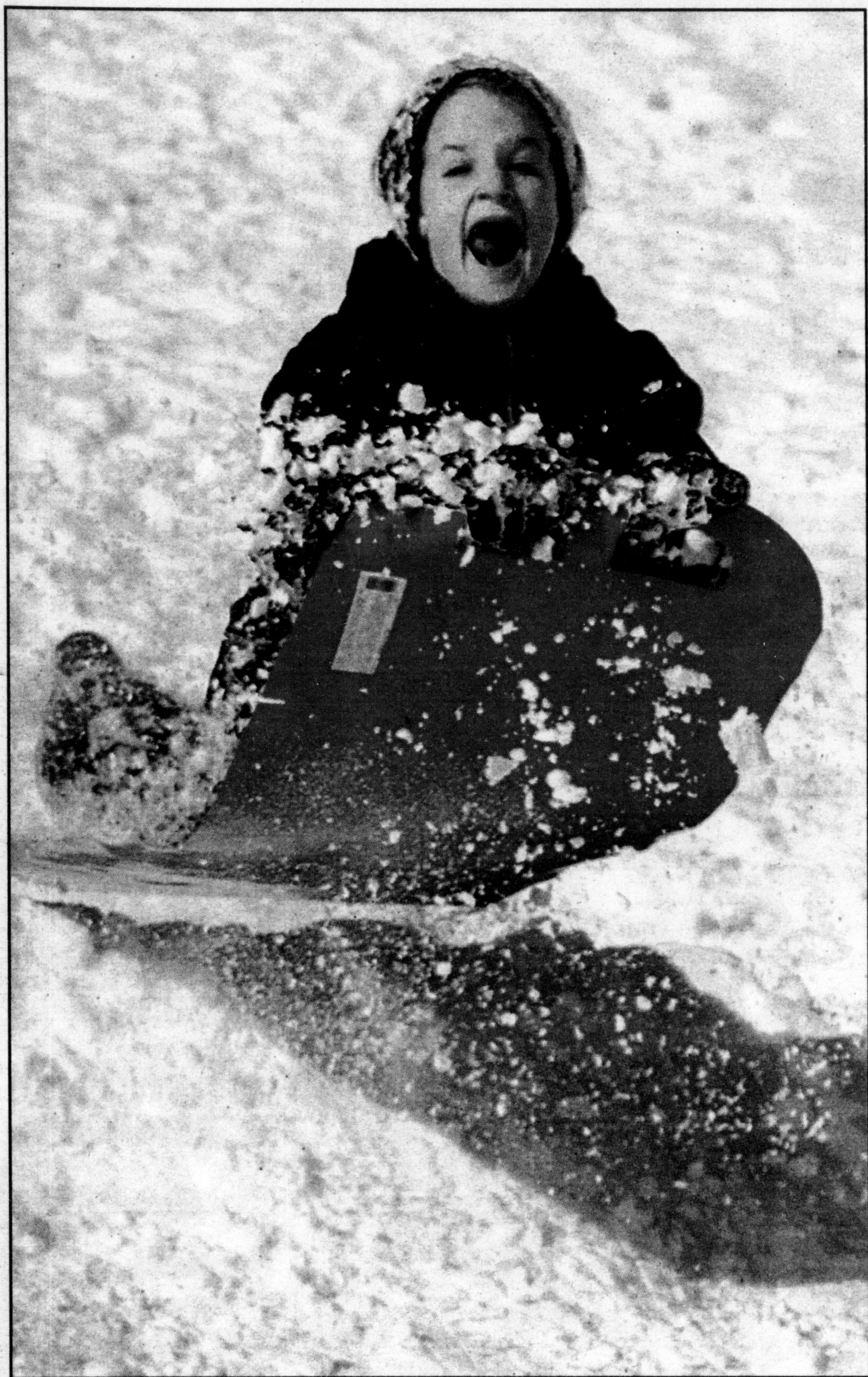
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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

## Crazy carpet ride

Jessica Liske, 8, screams with delight as she flies off a snow jump on her 'crazy carpet' slide at Kinsmen Park Saturday.

## Local trustee backs plan to build nine schools, close three

By IRENE GENTLE

*The Champion*

A plan before the Halton District School Board to build nine new schools in Milton while closing three others has won the guarded approval of Milton Trustee Erica Andrew.

"Right now I'm comfortable with it," she said.

Now it's up to the board to say yes to the comprehensive capital strategic plan drawn up by consultants C.N. Watson and Associates.

If approved in its entirety, the \$409 mil-



"It's a very complete report and my opinion would be it has to be accepted as a whole."

ERICA ANDREW

lion plan would bring 41 new schools to growth areas throughout Halton over the next 20 years. And it would close 15 others that don't have the student base to support them.

With its population expected to skyrocket to 85,000 over the next 16 years, Milton was fingered as a priority by the consultants.

Their plan allots Milton seven new elementary schools by 2016. Construction of the first would likely begin in 2002 with two others launching in 2003 and a fourth in 2004.

"They agreed Milton could get a school in 2002 because we can deal with our population until then," said Ms Andrew.

• see VOTE on page 4

## Catholic student renounces his faith

By KIM ARNOTT

*Special to The Champion*

A Halton Catholic student has renounced his religion in order to avoid compulsory religious education classes, but the Halton Catholic District School Board says he's still a Catholic in their eyes.

Marcus Dagenais, a grade 11 student at Bishop Reding High School in Milton, wrote a letter to the board's director of education Fred Sweeney complaining the board discriminates against Catholic students by forcing them to take religious education courses that non-Catholics may be exempted from.

"Please consider from this point forward that I am no longer Roman Catholic from the Halton Catholic District School Board's perspective," reads the letter from

• see GRADE on page 4

### INSIDE

<b>Comment Page</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Community Page</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Business</b>	<b>9-10</b>
<b>Dateline</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>Sports</b>	<b>17-19</b>
<b>Classified</b>	<b>20-22</b>

TUESDAY INSERT

• Biway •

### TIP OF THE MONTH: Does Your Pet Have Healthy Teeth; and Why You Should Be Concerned?

Periodontal "gum" disease is one of the most common health problems seen by veterinarians. In fact 85 to 90 percent of all dogs and cats over six years of age have periodontal (gum) disease. The signs of periodontal disease are bad breath, bleeding, inflamed or receded gums, infection, changes in appetite, difficulty chewing or tooth loss. Periodontal disease can be painful and can contribute to kidney, liver and heart disease. If you have noticed any of these signs, schedule a consultation for your pet. Because pets do not care for their teeth the way people do, dental problems can be extremely severe and life threatening. Fortunately most dental problems can be prevented or if they develop they can be treated by your veterinarian.

Remember Pets have teeth too!

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