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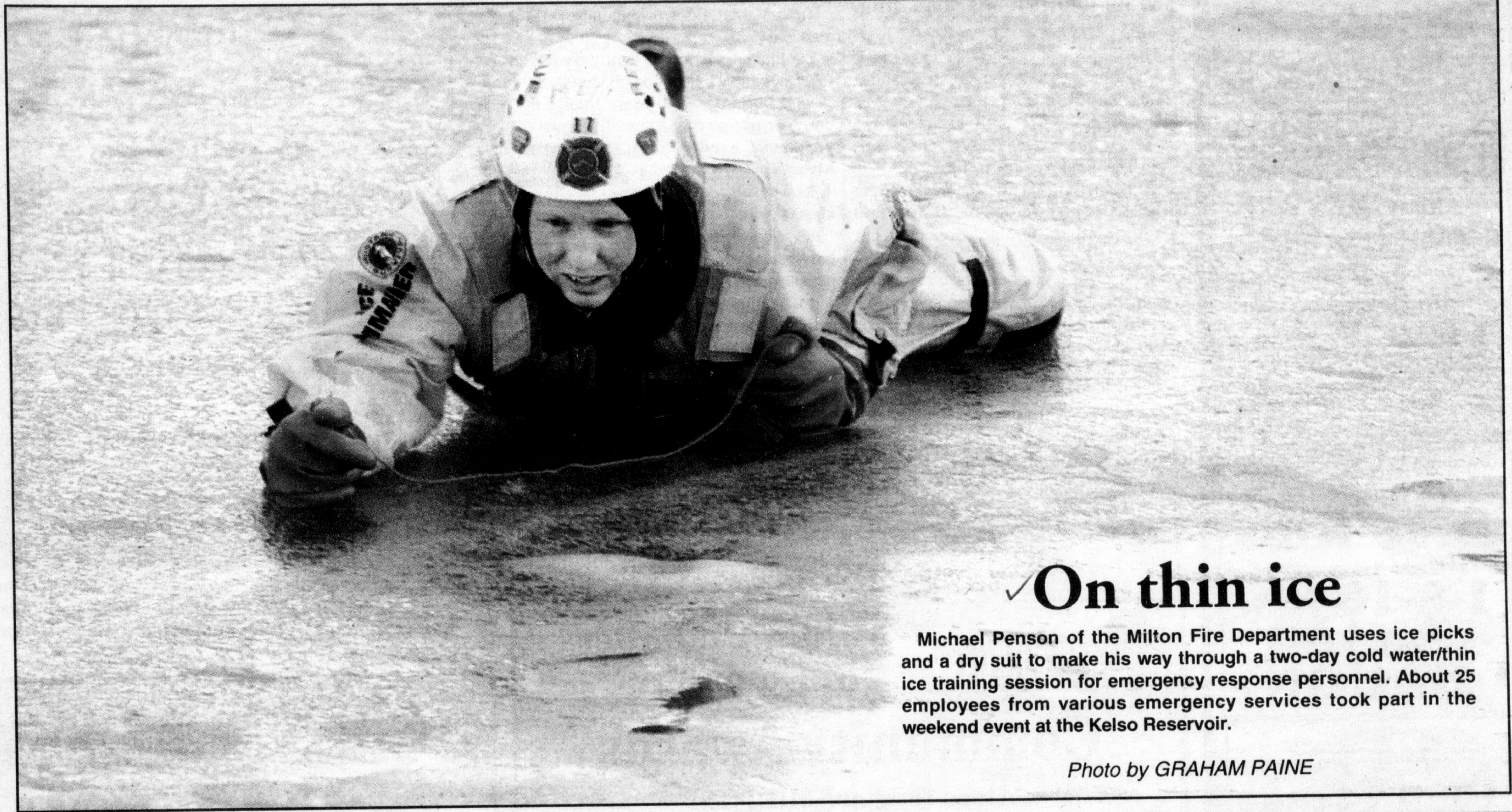
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On thin ice

Michael Penson of the Milton Fire Department uses ice picks and a dry suit to make his way through a two-day cold water/thin ice training session for emergency response personnel. About 25 employees from various emergency services took part in the weekend event at the Kelso Reservoir.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Local taxi business owner shot

Rainbow Taxi operator left for dead outside Oakville home

By **LISA CARTWRIGHT**
The Champion

A Milton business owner is expected to recover after being shot several times outside his Oakville home Saturday night.

Harcharan Singh Brar, 39, who owns the Rainbow Taxi and Limousine Service on Ontario Street, had just gotten out of his vehicle and was going inside his home when he was approached by someone from the

front, according to Halton Regional Police.

He was shot in the upper torso. Det. Sgt. Ken Cormier of the major crime bureau said the incident wasn't a random attack and Mr. Brar "was the target of the shooting."

The father of three children was taken to Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital by ambulance.

He was stabilized, then transferred to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto.

His family was at home at the time of the 8:40 p.m. shooting.

Mr. Brar is expected to recover from his injuries.

Contacted by the Champion, staff at Rainbow Taxi didn't want to comment.

Halton Regional Police are looking for a person dressed in dark clothing and armed with a handgun.

The suspect was driving a 1995 to 1997 Lumina or Corsica-style vehicle.

Police have set up a special tip line and anyone with information is asked to call 825-4725 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

'Date rape drug' chemical found

By **LISA CARTWRIGHT**
The Champion

Halton Regional Police found 39 gallons of a chemical used in making a date rape drug at Tremaine and Britannia roads recently.

Acting on information from

Chatham Kent police, investigators discovered the gammabutyrolactone (GBL) in eight plastic gasoline cans in a cement culvert February 16.

In its present state, GBL isn't restricted by the Controlled Drug and Substance Act, said Det. Bruce Mitchell of Halton police's drug and morality bureau.

GBL is available commercially and is used to make paint thinners, PVC's and textiles, he said.

It can also be used to make the date rape drug gamma-hydroxybutrate (GHB). On the street GHB is called 'Easy Lay', 'Gamma', 'Grievous Bodily Harm' and 'Liquid E'.

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TUESDAY INSERTS

- Biway • Lansing*
 - Brookville Minor*
 - Town of Halton Hills
 - Fortinos*
 - Pizza Hut* • Business Depot*
- *Selected areas only

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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