

Lifestyles

✓ Skateboarding a symbol of today's youth

Pastime has become more than a popular fad

By **ANDREW JENKINS**
Special to *The Champion*

Teens zip by in a flurry of baggy cargo pants and wallet chains on a board no thicker than your index finger.

Skateboarding has become one of the biggest sensations since pogo sticks and hoola-hoops. However, this one shows no sign of fading anytime soon.

When skateboards first became popular back in the '80s, like anything else that was hot on the market, everyone had to have one. They were big in size with generic designs and were relatively cheap.

Then after the initial shock wore off, it became rare to see anyone ever using them. Skateboarding was considered lame and was pronounced dead for several years.

However skateboarding saw a sudden abundance of life in the early to mid-'90s and has now become one of the most popular teen activities.

With many ideal functions such as transportation, exercise, and a means of expressing one's self creatively with various original and impressive moves, the skateboard finally gave the average vapid teen something more to do than to watch television or crowd the streets.

Locally, when being hassled by police to move along when loitering around store fronts, Milton skaters simply had no place to move along to until several years ago when the Town's park and recreation officials and some local business owners got involved in building a skate park.

Providing much of the labour was the staff at Milton establishment Spokes N' Slopes. With involvement from Subway and a few other decision-making partners, the skate park was finally constructed along Thompson Road beside the arena.

One of the key individuals in the proposed skate park idea, Matt Burger, proprietor of Spokes N' Slopes, said he's pleased with the success of the park.

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Skateboarding started to take off in the mid-'90s.
Photo by **GRAHAM PAINE**



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