

The Canadian Champion

Milton's Choice Since 1860

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 141 No. 48

Tuesday, August 29, 2000

40 Pages

\$1.00 (GST included)

FIFTH WHEEL
TRUCK STOPS

Voted #1
for Best
Breakfast

40 Chisholm Dr. 878-8441



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Fashionable entrance

Jackie Murdoch, dressed as "Miss Lilly - Hoxxy Poxxy Gardner", was among those who took part in the Milton and District Horticultural Society's 90th anniversary celebration in the Town Hall gardens Sunday afternoon. The event featured a fun fashion show entitled '90 Years of Gardening' as well as speeches and a cake cutting.

Overload of calls jams up 911 lines

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

A two-car accident that wiped out a hydro pole and left live wires scattered around Thursday afternoon had nearby resident Candace Oakley racing to the phone to call 911.

But after dialing, she couldn't get a connection.

"No one answered the phone. They weren't active at all," said Ms Oakley. "I thought it should be brought to the public's attention."

The delay in answering was due to a glut of people calling in the same accident, explained Halton Regional Police Supt. Paul Cormier.

It took place at about 3:30 p.m.

Thursday at Ontario Street and Laurier Avenue. A man's arm was injured in the collision.

"Everyone calls 911 when something like that happens, and there's only a certain amount of staff," said Supt. Cormier. "There's just too many calls at one time and 911 floods."

After repeated attempts to get through to the emergency line, Ms Oakley opted to try the police station instead.

She reached the front desk and was told she'd be connected to dispatch.

But she sat on hold for five minutes, she said, then called *The Champion* instead.

"I never actually got through to anyone," said Ms Oakley.

"Then 10 or 15 minutes later, an ambulance finally came. That's ridiculous. Someone could have died in that time."

But 911 operators had already dispatched the appropriate emergency workers to the scene, and the public wasn't in peril, said Supt. Cormier.

"Whenever the public sees something happening we get too many calls to answer within the mandatory three rings," he said.

"But they're all calling about the same incident. The public wasn't in any jeopardy."

Youth flees park outing in Ford van

A youth serving time in an Oakville open custody facility faces several charges for allegedly escaping from an outing in Campbellville Sunday evening.

Four youths from the Spruce Lane facility were attending a baseball game with a female caseworker when one of them demanded the keys to her vehicle, said Sgt. Frank Phillips of Halton police.

The woman refused and a youth punched and kicked her. The three other males came to the woman's assistance but the youth fled in the 1999 Ford Windstar.

Police later found the van in a ditch on Walkers Line near the Buffalo Compound at Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area.

Police searched the area with the help of the tactical rescue and canine units. Shortly after midnight officers found the gatehouse ransacked and a youth inside.

A police officer was injured in the arrest. A 16-year-old youth was charged with robbery, theft over \$5,000, break and enter, being unlawfully at large, breach of probation and assault causing bodily harm.

INSIDE

Comment 6
Community 8
Dateline 20
Sports 21-23
Classified 25-27

TUESDAY INSERTS

- Pizza Hut • Fall Fair Guide
- Shopping News • Zellers
- White Rose • Business Depot
- Fortinos*

*Selected areas only

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Fleas are small blood sucking insects that feed on the blood of cats, dogs and man causing irritation, skin disease and allergic reactions. Fleas transmit tapeworms to your pet. Flea season in Southern Ontario begins when the weather gets warm and lasts until the second hard frost in November. The peak months are August, September and October. Yet fleas may live in our homes all year round. New innovations in flea control have made flea collars and sprays practically obsolete. Come and visit us for the most up to date and effective methods of flea control.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.
AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE.

MAPLEWOOD VETERINARY HOSPITAL

"26 YEARS OF TRADITION & AFFORDABLE EXCELLENCE"

Medical and Surgical Care
After Hours & Emergency Service Available
House Calls / Pick-up and Delivery

Pet Foods & Pet Store Supplies
Boarding and Grooming
Pet Daycare Available

NEW CLIENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Include this advertisement with your pet's appointment.
Both you and your pet will appreciate it.



491 Main Street East, Milton

(905) 878-8848