

# The Canadian Champion

Milton's Choice Since 1860

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**FIFTH WHEEL**  
TRUCK STOPS

Voted #1  
for Best  
Breakfast

40 Chisholm Dr. 878-8441



## Pooling their efforts

The Milton Leisure Centre offers an aquatic exercise class for arthritis sufferers, a program strongly recommended by the Milton branch of the Arthritis Society, which celebrates Arthritis Month in September. See story on page 9.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

# Crime slightly up, but police say Halton still one of safest regions

By LISA CARTWRIGHT  
The Champion

Despite a slight increase in the level of crime in Halton, the region remains the safest community in Canada with a population of more than 100,000, police say.

According to the year-to-date figures that ended in July, 2000, crime in Halton is up 1.5 per cent over 1999, said police spokesperson Sgt. Frank Phillips.

Last year there were 8,766 criminal offences compared to 9,200 this year. Statistics show

decreases in robberies (20 per cent), auto thefts (21.2 per cent) and break-ins (2.8 per cent).

"Crime prevention strategies were used and resulted in a decrease," Sgt. Phillips said.

But for the first time in 10 years, data showed a slight increase in the overall crime rate. Increases occurred in a number of areas including sex offences (19.7 per cent), offensive weapons (61.4 per cent), domestic assault (4.4 per cent) and fraud (19.2 per cent).

There was also a rise in property damage (9.5 per cent) and stolen property (11.7 per cent).

"The largest increase was in relation to offensive weapons from 83 to 134 — up 51 occurrences," said Sgt. Phillips.

The increase was due to a backlog of cases that originated in 1999, but weren't recorded at the time. A number of the weapon charges were minor. "Many of these offences, although criminal, are of a minor nature, such as a registered firearm owner not notifying a change of address."

Each district of Halton police has a crime analyst officer who identifies crime trends and, with a community officer, develops a strategy to target the identified crimes, Sgt. Phillips said.

"The Halton Regional Police Service will continue to deploy officers to address areas of increase. This will be done by both targeted and increased enforcement through the use of crime analysis."

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### TUESDAY INSERTS

- Lansing • Fortinos\*
  - White Rose • Business Depot
  - Mattress Liquidators
- \*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.

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