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Milton's AUTOMOTIVE DIRECTORY

Snake sculpture returned

By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

It just took a tip to break the case of the stolen snake wide open.

Rising close to three feet in height and fashioned out of painstakingly polished stainless steel, the sinuous sculpture once coiled around a post in the front yard of Meadowbrook Drive resident Mike Bullen.

But after thieves made off with the snake in the night, Mr. Bullen contacted The Champion to plea for its safe return.

That resulted in a call from a hawk-eyed good Samaritan who saw youths toying with the snake — yawning stainless steel-fanged jaws and all — in the park area behind John Tonelli Sports Centre.

"His words were 'those punks,'" confided Mr. Bullen. "He said he told them to take it back to where they got it from."

According to the good citizen, the youths claimed they'd found the snake in the grass.

The Samaritan expressed his disbelief at the claim and noted it had been reported stolen.

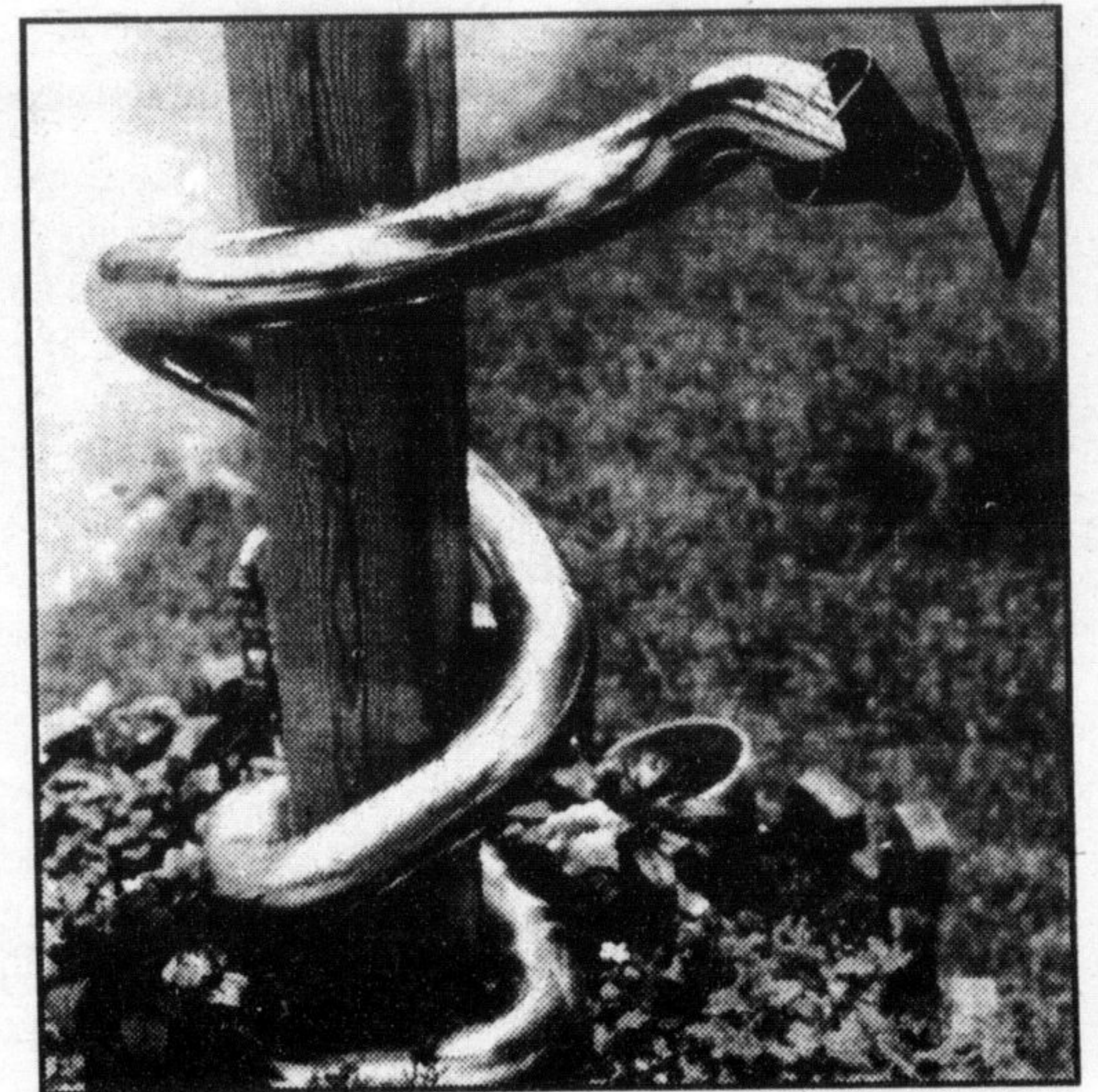
Shortly afterward, the Bullen family received a call from a youth who said he'd found the snake and was willing to return it for the \$50 reward which had been cited in this paper.

But just as the caller was about to hang up, Mr. Bullen's wife, Jean, said "that's fine, but don't you want to know where we live?"

The theory was only the thief would already know the snake's address.

So with the caller's innocence potentially compromised, a reward seemed precarious. After all, said Mr. Bullen, "You don't like to pay someone who has stolen it."

But the decision was taken out of his hands when the snake later appeared on the Bullen's driveway.



This snake sculpture, stolen from a Meadowbrook Drive residence recently, was returned this past week to owner Mike Bullen.

Despite the drama, Mr. Bullen said he's happy to have his sculpture back.

But the thief, who likely brought a screwdriver along to do the job the first time, will have to bring some heavier artillery if they want to steal it again.

"They'll have to come with a chainsaw next time," promised Mr. Bullen.

And his creative urges haven't been dampened by the incident.

In fact, Mr. Bullen is currently working on an idea for a stainless steel water fountain.

"It takes 99 per cent thinking and one per cent doing," he said. "There's a lot of stuff you can create. There's no end to it."

Public school board gets national awards

The Halton District School Board (HDSB) has received two prestigious national communications awards from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) at its annual conference held November 4 to 7 in Halifax, NS.

The 'BRAVO!' awards recognize projects that demonstrate excellence in research, planning, execution and evaluation. Entries were in three categories — project, program, and media reporting in education.

The HDSB was recognized in the area of program, demonstrating evidence of a "planned approach that involved two or more products, events or activities," a CACE spokesperson said.

The Mission 2000-Plus event, held October 8, 1999 to launch the HDSB's strategic planning initiative, was recognized with the first 'BRAVO!' award.

The unique event was organized and implemented by the board to involve all staff in a day-long professional development opportunity, and gathering feedback for the board's mission statement and guiding principles.

The second 'BRAVO!' award recognized the HDSB's retirement evening — Celebrating Service.

This event, re-introduced in Halton in 1998, has been primarily sponsored by the Centre for Skills Development and Training, and recognizes the years of service for all retiring employees.

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- 1 HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS [PG]
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- 2 THE RUGRATS IN PARIS [F]
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