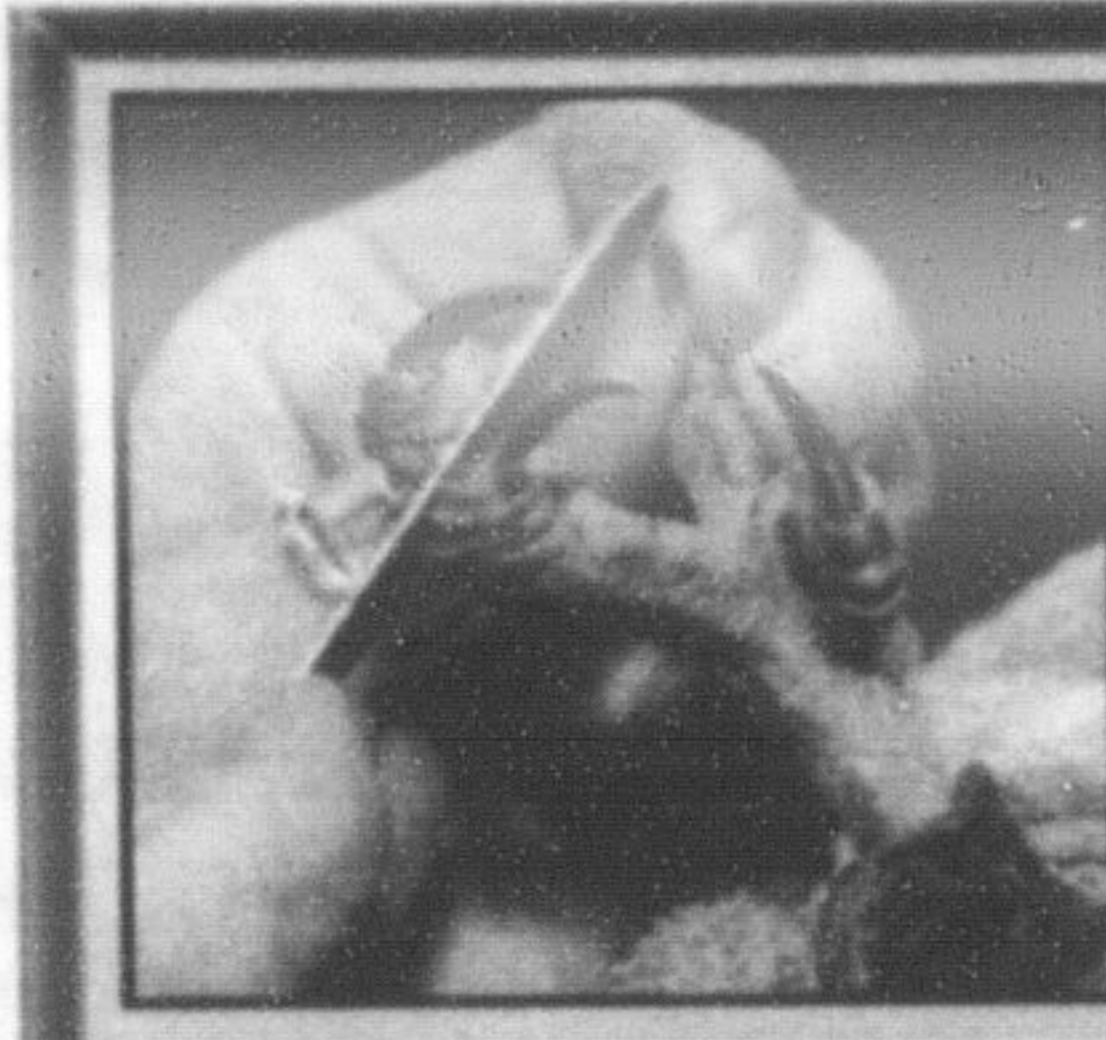


**Police warn citizens of suspicious canvassers**

See page 3



**Caring for injured birds of prey**

See page 8



**Merchants force game 7 in West finals**

See page 21

**Curl for Kids raises \$42,000 for children's charities**

See page 5

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## ✓ Spring flowers

Bonnie Moran of Terra Greenhouses looks over a spring daffodil plant as she's surrounded by other colourful spring plants like gerbera daisies and cyclamens in the greenhouse, which is currently an oasis of spring colour.

## Halton a magnet for car thieves: bureau report

Halton is a magnet for professional car thieves looking for luxury vehicles, fast escape routes and a relatively low chance of getting caught.

In 1999, four out of every 10 vehicles

stolen in Halton were never seen again, which gives the region the worst recovery rate in Ontario and fourth worst in Canada next to three cities in Quebec.

Meanwhile, neighboring Hamilton didn't cut car thieves much slack after recovering about 85 per cent of stolen vehicles.

Across Canada, three of 10 stolen cars are never recovered. Twenty years ago, when joyriders were the main culprits, almost every stolen car was returned to the owner within a few days.

Halton detectives say organized crime groups — from outlaw bikers to the Russian mob — have replaced the joyriders and are stealing cars for profit. The vehicles could be disassembled and sold for parts, re-registered with a new vehicle identification number and sold across

• see AUTO on page 7

## Results of water tests almost in

Water test results from the Kelso well-field are still being analyzed and should be completed by the end of this week, according to a spokesperson from the Region's planning and public works department.

Judy MacDonald of the department said results will be available after that.

Halton Region conducted an aquifer test to address the ongoing discoloured water problem caused by manganese.

According to a press release issued by Halton Region last month, results of water quality completed to date indicate the origin of the manganese is primarily from water flowing through the deepest part of the aquifer.

"Under certain conditions, this water appears to move up and into the Milton well water supply," Ms. MacDonald said.

The purpose of the test was to determine how the water gets into the Milton well water supply, how it affects water quality and what additional treatment and/or remedy will be required, she said.

**INSIDE**

**Comment ..... 6**  
**Business ..... 12**  
**Dateline ..... 19-20**  
**Classified ..... 25-26**

**BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP**  
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### PROTECT YOUR PET FROM HEARTWORM & FLEAS

Heartworm is the most serious of all the worm parasites. They can affect any dog and more recently cats. Each year heartworm disease threatens dogs and cats with death or permanent disability. Heartworms usually do not cause any outward signs until the disease is advanced. They can grow to a length of 15-30cm and be hundreds in numbers living on nutrients which they steal from your dog or cats bloodstream as well as causing irreversible damage to your pets internal organs. Heartworm disease is transmitted by mosquitoes, when a dog or cat already infected with heartworm is bitten, the mosquito takes up the immature (baby) worms called microfilariae with its blood meal. The worms grow into infective larvae and are transmitted to other dogs and cats by the mosquito when it feeds again. Once in your pets body the larvae travel to the heart and lungs where they mature and produce new microfilariae. One infected dog (including foxes and coyotes) can easily become a source of infection for an entire area or neighbourhood and every dog and cat exposed to the infective mosquitoes are at risk.

You can protect your dog or cat from this serious health threat by implementing a heartworm prevention program. This involves a simple blood test prior to starting a monthly medication given June first to November.

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