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Campfire fun at the Mall

Members of the Thompson Meadows Guiding District held a public campfire at Milton Mall Saturday afternoon in conjunction with International Scouting and Guiding Week. Here, Sparks Amielya Gilmore, 5, (left) and friend Allison Durdin, 6, have some fun during the campside sing-along while another young Spark looks on. Approximately 40 Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinder's took part in the local event.

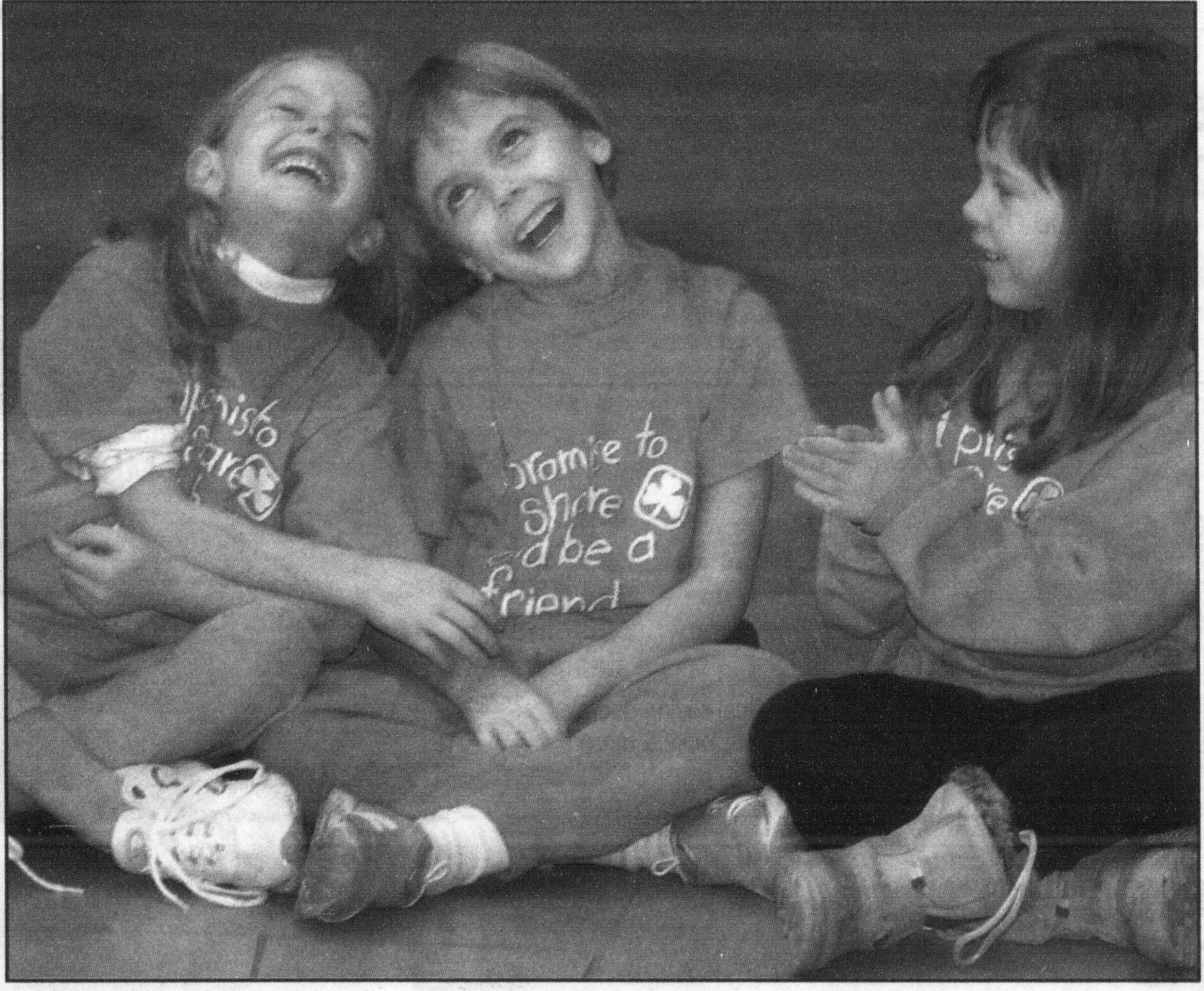


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

New jobs centre will open today

The Centre for Skills Development and Training will officially launch the opening of the Milton Employment Partners Centre with an open house today. The open house will take place between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., with official remarks and the ribbon cutting ceremony by Mayor Gord Krantz at 12:30 p.m. The Milton Employment Partners Centre brings employment and career programs together to better serve Milton and neighbouring communities. Employment partners include The Centre for Skills and Development and Training, Halton Dufferin Skills Evaluation Centre, JBJ Employment Service Inc. and Workway. The Milton Partners Employment Centre is located at 550 Ontario St., on the northwest corner of Derry Road and Hwy. 25. For more information, call Laura at (905) 333-3499 or (905) 878-1240.

Potential retailers flocking to Milton

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion
With Milton's population about to burst at the seams, local retail and office space is becoming a precious commodity. Since municipal services became more readily available last year, the Town has been inundated with developer requests to build retail and office space in order to meet the growing needs of the community. "We're adding another 50,000 people (to Milton's population), so you could anticipate we may need roughly another 1.2 million square feet of retail component. The question is how to dis-

tribute it and what opportunities does it allow for?" said Bill Mann, Milton's manager of policy planning, adding 1.2 million square feet of commercial space currently exists in Milton. "One of the major objectives to accomplish in any community is that you draw 100 per cent of the retail dollars — keep it all in town. If you do have that opportunity, you want to capture it. "But what you don't want is saturation at the point where something is sucking away from other retail areas, like say downtown. We have to achieve a balance between all the retail opportunities." To aid in the decision of where to develop and for what purpose, the Town is currently undertaking a Retail Market Analysis Study.

The study includes an inventory of existing retail/service space, a survey for Milton residents to identify current shopping patterns and future desires, a retail/service space demand analysis, as well as "big box store" trends and needs. With the surveys completed, Town staff are now working to analyze the information collected and expect to present a final report to town council next month. "There's a whole lot of retail developers waiting out there for the results of this study. They usually produce their own retail market studies, but because we realized there was a real desire for a whole hierarchy of retailers in town because of the increasing population, we felt it was in the Town's • see LOCAL RETAIL on page 4

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