

# Lifestyles

## Enjoying life what mentoring program is about

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**  
The Champion

An hour a week could make a world of difference in the life of a child. That's why the Big Brothers Association of Halton is looking for at least 10 Milton volunteers.

"More and more, children are feeling lost and lonely, so this is a great program to address that need," Lena Bassford of Big

Brothers said of the In-school Mentoring Program.

"The children that just need that extra little bit of attention absolutely blossoms. It's so wonderful to see a child who was experiencing some difficulty really start to enjoy life."

The In-school Mentoring Program matches volunteer men and women from the community with children between the ages of 5 and 12 years. Mentors will spend just one hour a week with a child at their school.

Volunteers are asked to commit to participation for a full school year.

Children involved in the program have been referred by their schools are seen to be experiencing difficulties either academically or socially — but this isn't a tutoring program, stressed Ms Bassford.

Each week, the matches will spend their time playing games, sports, doing puzzles or anything else, within reason.

"In one of our matches, the child had a real interest in airplanes, so the mentor and little brother took it upon themselves to become sort of experts in the field," Ms Bassford said.

There are currently two matches in Milton, both involving children at J.M. Denyes School — but Big Brothers is hoping to expand that starting in September.

"Obviously the more volunteers we get the more matches we can make. There is an incredible need for this type of program," continued Ms Bassford.

"We hear so much about self-esteem — so much that people don't even pay attention to it anymore — but what we've found at Big Brothers is that a child's self confidence affects absolutely every aspect of their life. If they don't believe in themselves, if they don't think they can accomplish things, they won't."

Anyone interested in volunteering their time in the program or seeking more information can contact Lena Bassford at (905) 339-2355 ext. 224.

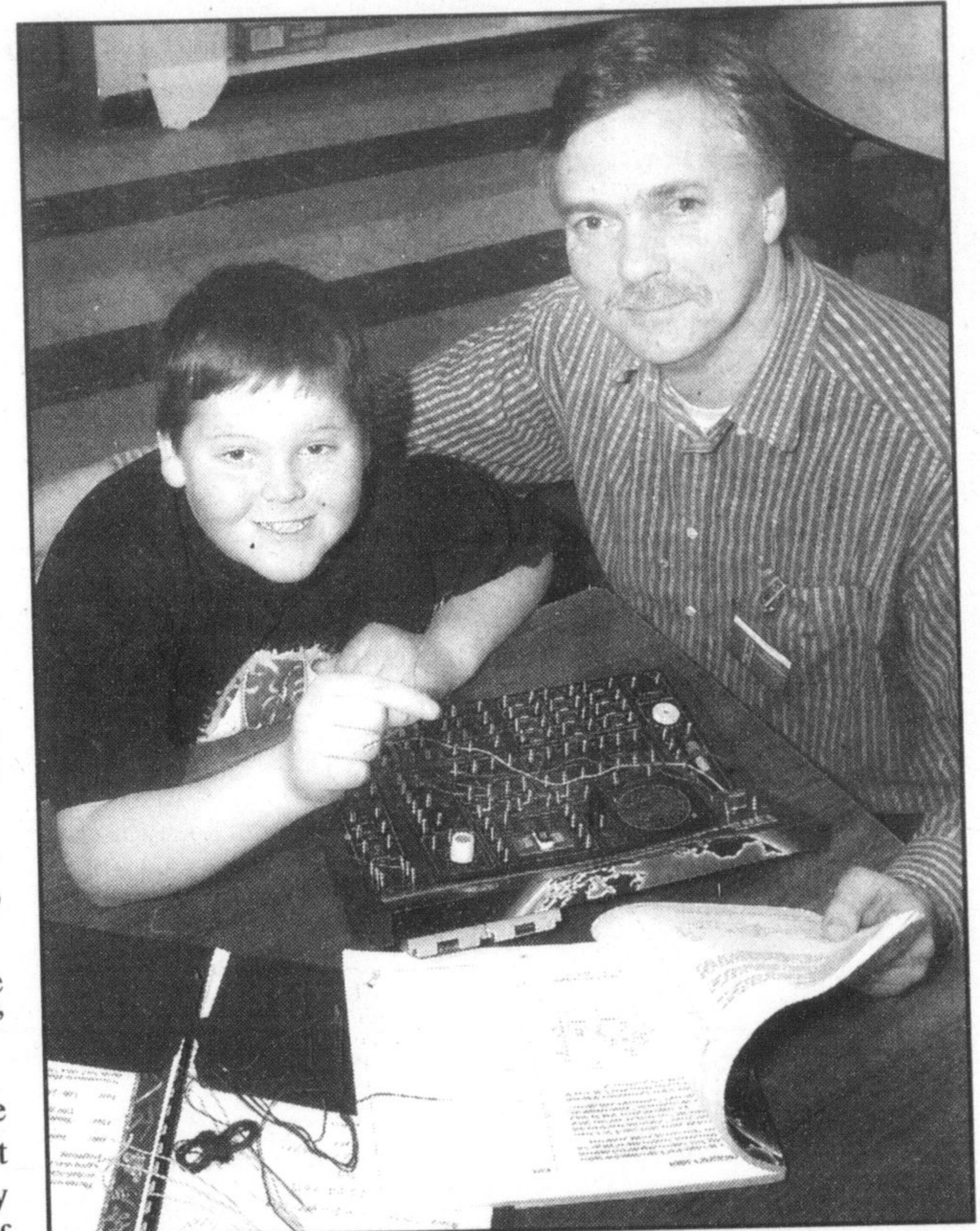


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Michael, a student in the In-school Mentoring Program, works on an electronic lab project with volunteer Larry Sweetman.

**Kids Kids Kids**

**Ages 2 +**

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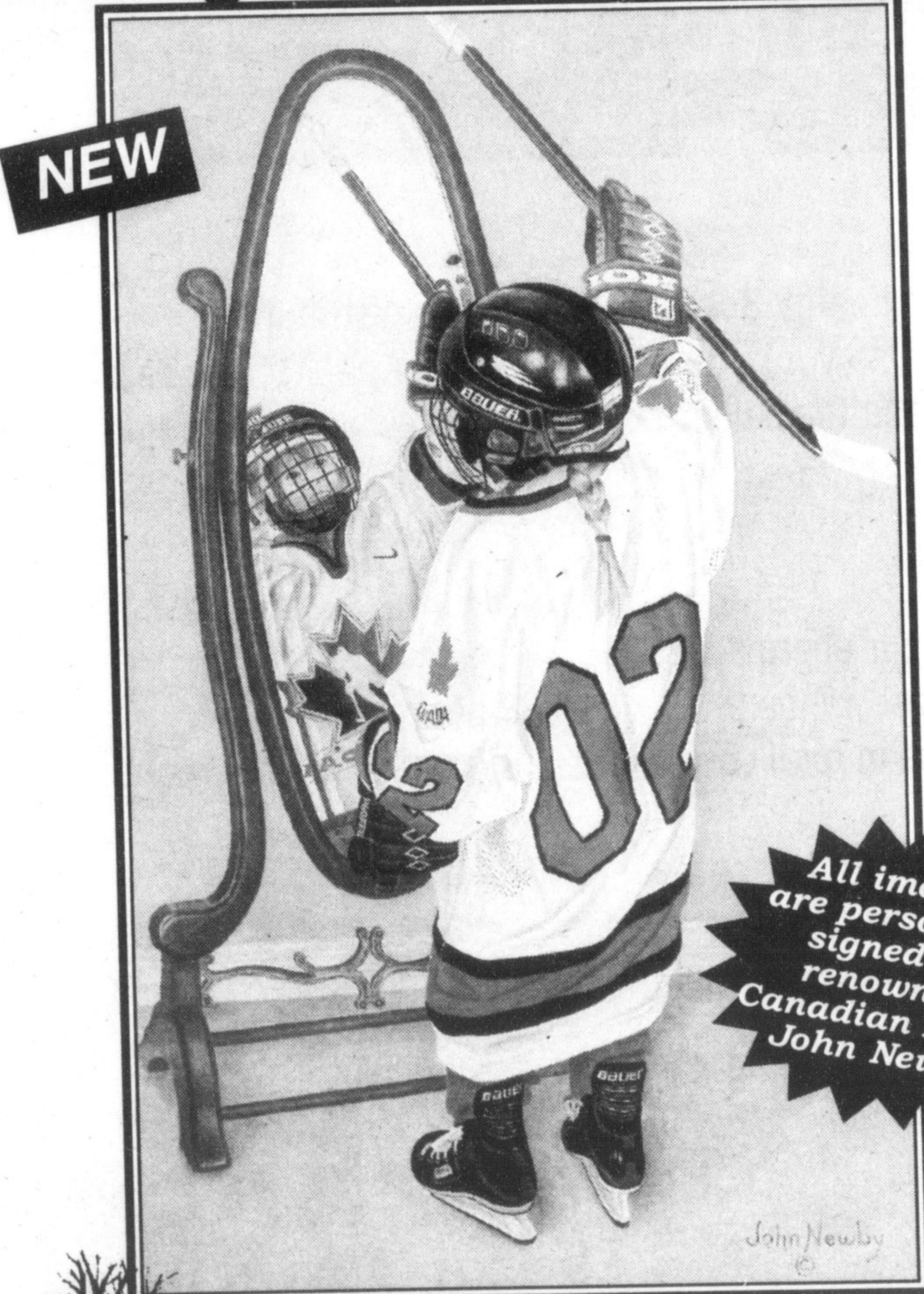
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### Images of Childhood



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## What an absolutely great day to be Canadian citizen

Canada's hockey triumph over the United States at the Olympics will go down as one of the most memorable moments in our country's history.

It's odd, but hockey is what gives this country its identity. It's what we do best and what we care about most.

The horns were blaring and the flags were waving in Milton as in every town and city across the country, and it was just a great day to be Canadian. It should remain throughout our lifetime as one of those times when we will always remember where we were and who we were with when it happened.

The earliest event of such magnitude that I remember are the Kennedy assassinations, but just barely. All I can recall is a train that carried one of the coffins, and I think it was Bobby's, not John's.

The Vietnam War was prominent when I was a teenager, but I remember the protesters more than the war itself. Protesting looked like fun, even if you didn't know why you were doing it.

I remember being riveted to O.J. Simpson's freeway drive in the white Bronco, and where I was when the verdict came back not guilty. I kept a television beside my computer for almost the whole trial, but had to listen to the verdict on the radio because I was on my way to a meeting.



*On the loose*

with **MURRAY TOWNSEND**

September 11 is in a category of its own. None of us will ever forget that shocking event, especially watching on live television when the towers collapsed.

I don't remember when Elvis Presley died, but I was never a fan of his. I do remember when Toronto won the Stanley Cup in 1967 and just about everything from 1972.

The first game in the Summit Series I remember Phil Esposito falling when he came out on the ice to be introduced and Canada getting an early lead. I went off to my own hockey game, confident that it was going to be a slaughter. They announced the scores during our game and everybody was in a state of shock. It had been a slaughter, but in favour of the wrong team.

Later, of course, when they got to Russia, they let school out early and everybody was riveted to their televisions as the country virtually shut down. I started to watch the

final game at school, but then left and walked home because it was too distracting. When Paul Henderson scored I was sitting in my living room by myself, with the rat-tat-tat of my mother's electric typewriter in the background.

Lots of other events are memorable, such as Joe Carter's home run to win the World Series, but that's sort of in a secondary class.

I would have thought that the day the Second World War ended would have surpassed anything in my lifetime, so I asked my father about it. Were there big celebrations in the streets? Did everybody go crazy? He was in Toronto at the time when it was announced the war was over and didn't recall people dancing in the streets or wild celebrations. It wasn't a big surprise. The war had been winding down for a while, he told me, and everyone knew it was just a matter of time. He did suggest to me, though, that I ask somebody else.

We all have our personal memories we'll never forget, such as when our children were born, but pretty much for me, the most memorable public events during my lifetime, besides September 11, are hockey games and O.J. Simpson.

I don't think O. J. Simpson has anything to do with being a proud Canadian, but hockey certainly does.