

## Man seriously injured in fall from truck

A 51-year-old Woodbridge man suffered serious head injuries during a delivery at Johnson Controls in Milton Wednesday morning.

While unloading a truck at the Parkhill Drive business, the operator of the delivery truck fell off the back of the vehicle and was knocked unconscious.

He was listed in serious condition at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital yesterday. The accident is being investigated by the Ontario Ministry of Labour.

## Teens successful in 15 per cent of smoke purchases

By **KIM ARNOTT**

*Special to The Champion*

The vast majority of Halton variety stores and gas bars are refusing to sell cigarettes to teens, according to a recent report to Halton regional councillors.

An enforcement program that sends 15 to 17-year-olds into stores to attempt to purchase tobacco resulted in 25 charges being laid across the region in 2001.

Hired by the Halton Regional Health Department, the teens made visits to 341 variety stores, gas bars, restaurants and grocery stores to buy cigarettes. They were only successful in 15 per cent of their attempts, down from 18 per cent in 2000.

### Grocery stores easier to buy cigarettes from

The program found teens were most likely to be able to purchase cigarettes at grocery stores (27 per cent of the time) and least likely at variety stores (12 per cent of the time).

The report, distributed to the Region's health and social services committee Tuesday, showed that variety stores in

Burlington were most likely to sell teens tobacco (18 per cent of the time), while those in Halton Hills were least likely (only 4 per cent of the time).

Milton variety stores sold the teens cigarettes 9 per cent of the time, while Oakville stores did so 11 per cent of the time.

Under the Province's Tobacco Control Act, retailers can face a fine of \$215 for selling cigarettes to anyone under 19 years of age.

A ban on the sale of tobacco can be imposed if retailers are convicted of two or more sales offences within a five-year period, where the same person sold the tobacco.

There were no prohibitions imposed in Halton in 2001.

A system of offering unticketed warnings to retailers selling tobacco to the health department's 'test' teens was ended last September. Retailers now face charges if caught.

"The change is to provide a greater deterrent to local tobacco retailers in view of the fact that the smoking rate among young people (grades 7 to OAC) in Halton remains at 27 per cent," said the report by Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal.

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