

Economy still creating jobs: Martin

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slowdown in the last 35 years," the crowd of about 200 party supporters heard.

"Despite this global slowdown, the Canadian economy has continued to create jobs while other economies are losing. In fact, we are the only G7 country, apart from the United Kingdom, that has actually created jobs over the course of the last year."

To keep the economy growing, the provincial and federal governments need to stop the bickering and work together on health care and education reform, he commented.

"We have to make sure that we maintain the best healthcare system that this country has ever seen. You have to understand that you're not going to do that unless you've got the best education system that the world can ever have."

Added emphasis on agriculture and environmental issues will also help bolster Canada as a global leader, he added.

"The environment is not a problem," he said.

"It is a phenomenal economic opportunity for us. The fact is that agriculture provides us with a tremendous opportunity in terms of renewable energy."

The majority of Canadians don't see it, but this county's reputation as a peaceful, economically-strong nation is evident when talking to and visiting afar, he concluded.

Loaded semi-automatic handgun seized after police make a routine traffic stop

A loaded semi-automatic handgun and biker colours were among the items seized after a routine traffic stop by police in Milton Friday.

At about 12:40 a.m., Const. Greg Tyrell of Halton Regional Police pulled over a vehicle as part of a routine traffic stop at Main Street East and Fourth Line.

The driver of the car wasn't able to provide a valid driver's licence. A second officer then noticed break and enter tools in plain view on the

back seat of the car.

Following a search of the occupants, officers found a loaded, 25 caliber semi-automatic handgun in the inner coat of one of the passengers.

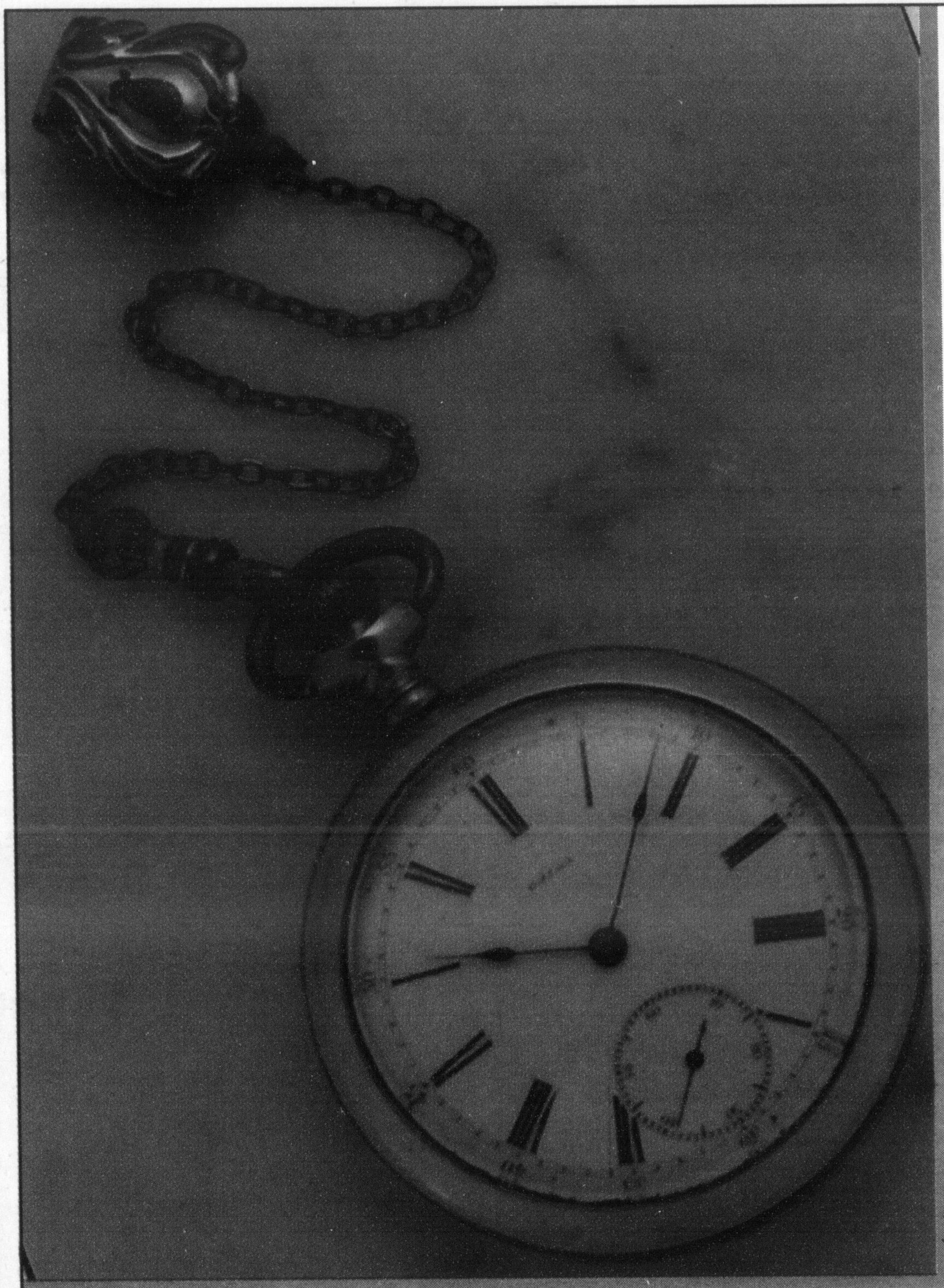
Police also found 38 caliber firearm ammunition in the car and a black leather vest with the outlaw motorcycle gang Bandidos colour patch in a duffel bag.

A 27-year-old Guelph man, a 36-year-old and a 32-year-old, both of no fixed addresses, were

charged with one count each of possession of break and enter tools, occupants of a vehicle with an unregistered prohibited weapon, possession of prohibited ammunition and possess of stolen property under \$5,000.

The Guelph man was also charged with personation and obstruction of police.

The three are held in custody and appeared in Ontario court (provincial division) in Milton yesterday.



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