

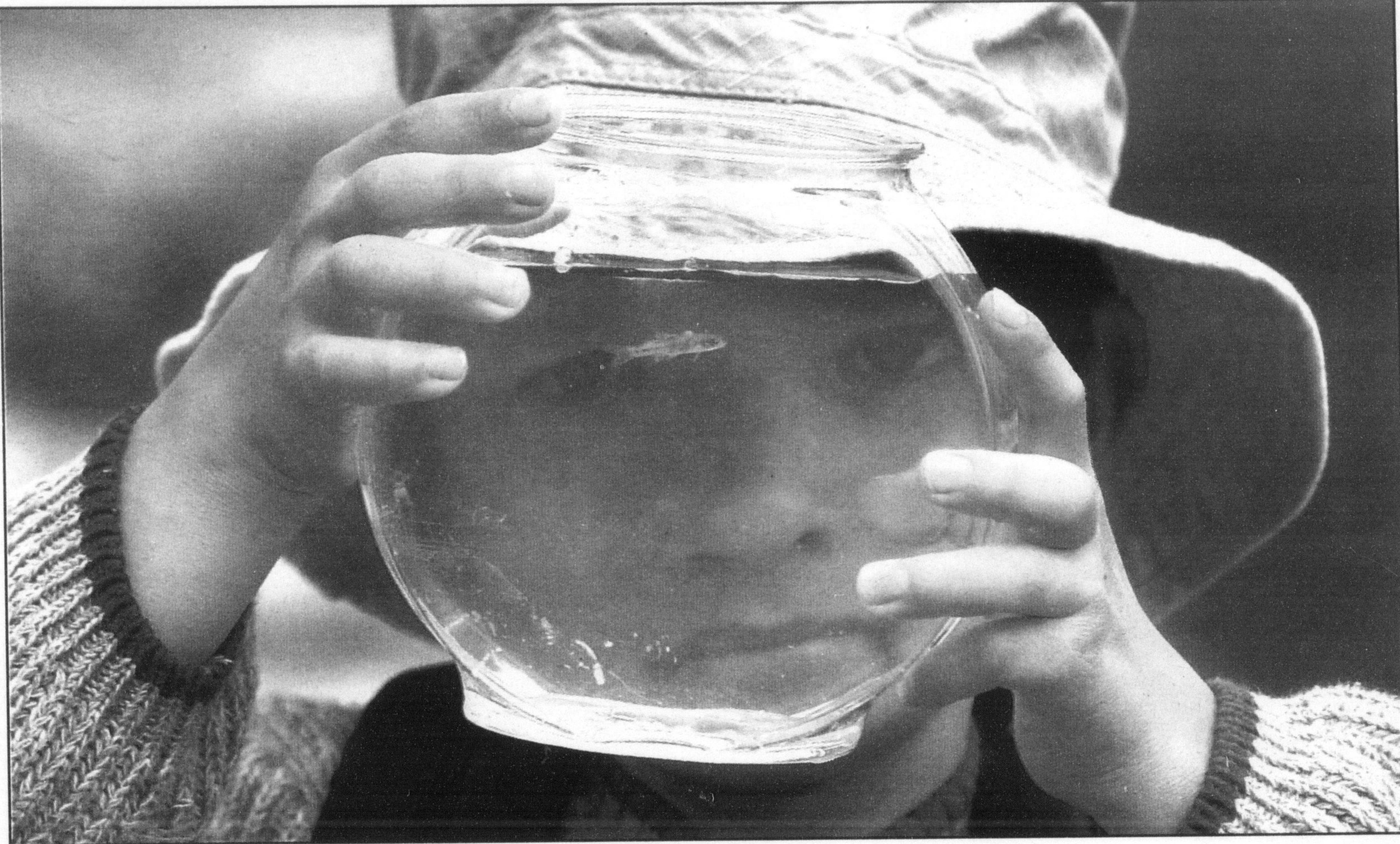
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## Time to fish

Seven-year-old Galen Harris takes a close-up look at the prized minnow he scooped from the Mill Pond. Anglers across the province are set to cast their lines tomorrow as trout season opens.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

# Smoking banned in all public places except bingo hall, Mohawk Raceway

By RICHARD VIVIAN  
*The Champion*

Smokers will have to take it outside as of May 31.

In a 5-4 vote Monday, Milton council approved a bylaw banning smoking in workplaces and public areas with the exception of Bingo Country, the gaming floor of Mohawk Slots and private clubs.

"We, as elected officials, have an obligation to protect the health and well being of the people we represent. By passing this bylaw, we will be doing what's right for our citi-

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zens," said Councillor Rick Malboeuf, who chaired the Smoking Bylaw Review Committee (SBRC), which recommended the approved ban.

"Seventy-five per cent of the population doesn't smoke. These people have the right to go out and be in public places without having to expose themselves or their children to the hazards and dangers of second-hand smoke."

In the case of Mohawk Raceway, smoking will be banned from every area except half of the gaming floor and half of the bleachers.

Bingo Country has agreed to install a designated smoking room by January 2004, following an as-of-yet unscheduled move.

Private clubs will be allowed to permit smoking as long as the club isn't open to the public at the time.

Facilities deemed to be in contra-

dition with the bylaw could face a \$5,000 fine.

Exemptions were granted to Bingo Country and Mohawk Slots based on information they provided to the review committee surrounding profit losses in areas where smoking bans have been enacted.

According to information gathered by Bingo Country, profits from their bingo operation in Kitchener dropped from \$1,112,202 to \$558,5886 after the ban was instituted in 1999.

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### INSERTS

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- A&P • Loblaws • Shoppers Drug Mart • Zellers • Walmart
- M&M Meats • Vito's Pizza • Sears • Cristello's Village Market • Food Basics • Canadian Tire • No Frills • Regal • Bing Ming • Growmark
- Bronte Meadows Tennis Club • Home Hardware • Home Turf Lawncare • Acton Garden Market • Ashley Furniture • Longos

\*Selected areas only

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