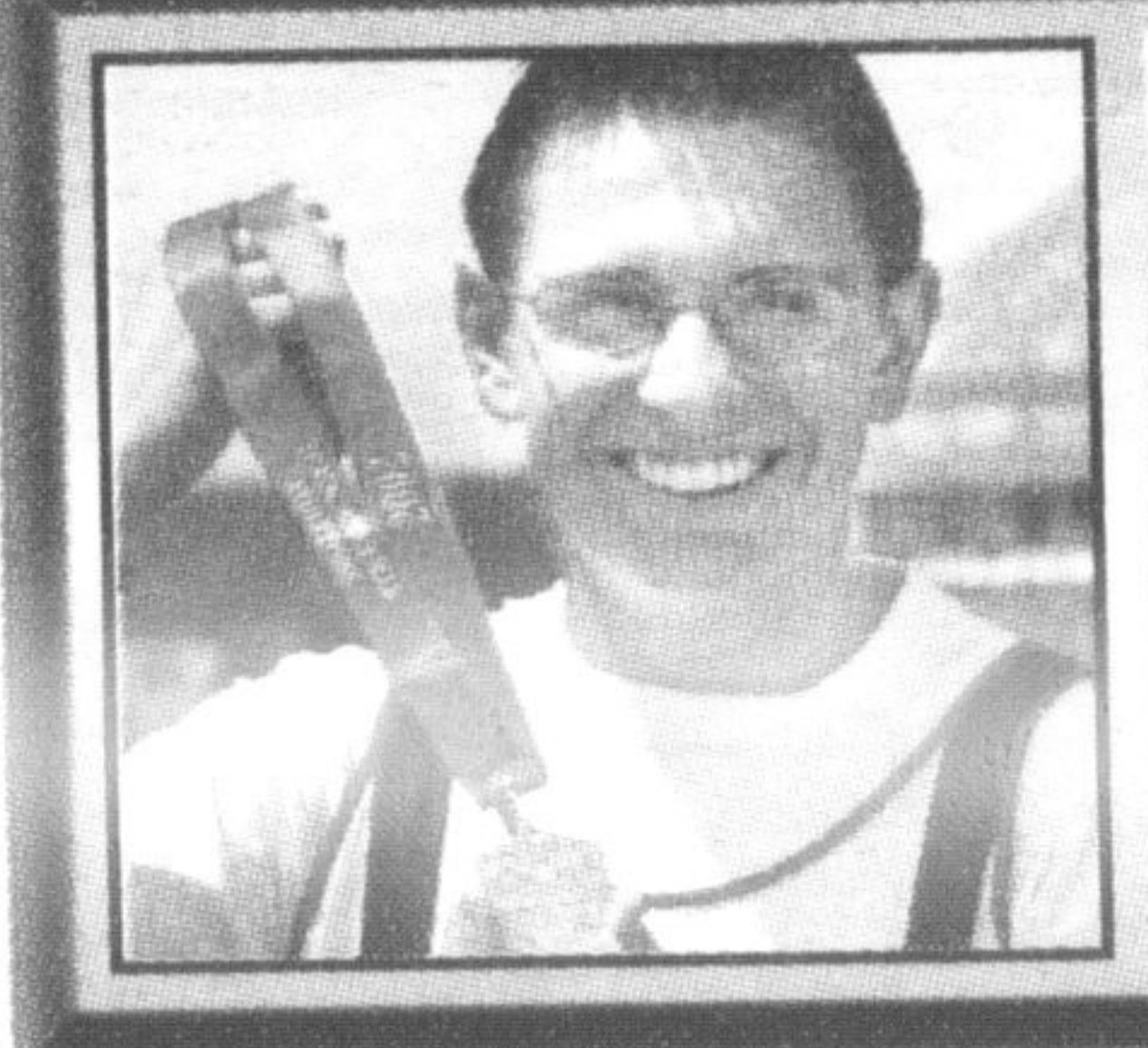


**School boards struggling to balance their budgets**  
See pages 3, 5



**Peddie, 100, remembers Milton's old days**  
See page 8



**Reding runner breaks OFSAA record in 400m**  
See page 21

**Businesses may be charged for using sidewalks**  
See page 9

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## Rented picnic tables stolen

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**  
*The Champion*

Sandi Walter is trying to figure out how three picnic tables vanished from Robert Baldwin School June 1.

The school rented seven tables from the Town for its annual Fun Day. The tables were delivered May 31 and left outside in front of the school behind a locked gate, she said.

"When the Town picked the tables up Monday morning (June 3), they told us there were only four tables," said Ms Walter, a member of the school's parent council. "The Town found one table across the street at Fay Park (last) Tuesday but two are still missing."

She's hoping someone will see the forest green picnic tables and call Halton Regional Police.

"Maybe someone saw a vehicle or some kids on the school property last weekend," she said, adding the school owes the Town \$200 to recover the cost of the missing tables. "We put a lot of work into the fair and we don't know who would want to steal the tables. We hope they will be found."

Doug Thompson, manager of operations for the Town's community service department, said the 25 picnic tables owned by the Town are lent out to various community groups upon request.

"This is the first incident in which we've loaned out tables and they went missing", he said, adding the tables aren't marked with any identification or stamps.

Anyone with information is asked to call (905) 878-5511.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Anticipation...

Two-year-old Rachel Opsteen waits patiently by the fish pond for a nibble during the Milton Community Resource Centre's ninth annual Family Fun Day at Victoria Park Saturday.

## Milton lacks say in roadwork timelines at Region: Krantz

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**  
*The Champion*

Regional road upgrades in Milton need to be done sooner rather than later, but the rural north doesn't have much of a voice on such matters, says the mayor.

"We do have the pressure cranked up (at regional council), but the reality of it is that politics plays a role," Mayor Gord Krantz said during discussion of road upgrade prioritizations at last week's Milton community services committee meeting.

"We're out-gunned," he added, referring to 15 regional councillors from Burlington and Oakville (including the regional chair) and only six from Milton and Halton Hills.

Those comments followed a presentation from Edward Soldo, Halton's manager of transportation planning, in which he outlined the time frame for east-west corridor upgrades in the town.

With the environmental assessment (EA) for Derry Road — between Bronte Street and Fifth Line — complete, the section of road is scheduled to be widened from two lanes to four in 2004. An EA is currently under way for another section of the same road, between Fifth and Ninth lines. Upgrades are expected to begin in 2006.

Further EAs are planned for Britannia Road in 2005, with upgrades expected between 2008 and 2012. "There certainly is a need to upgrade the east-west corridors. The timing of these projects was set out in the North Halton Transportation Plan," the manager explained.

But with the amount of traffic these corridors are seeing today, let alone several years into the future, numerous councillors questioned how upgrades can wait so long.

"We have a critical situation on Derry. We're dealing with a 'now' situation in Milton," said Councillor Brian Penman.

"It's not just the amount of growth we're seeing (that causes traffic congestion). We have a tremendous amount of traffic that doesn't originate from Milton."

While supportive of the call for upgrades to roads in Milton, Regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf suggested some of the local congestion is due to drivers attempting to avoid worse congestion in the south.

"Let's not forget that Burlington and Oakville are suffering from major gridlock because of the growth they've already experienced," he told the committee. "Yes, we have a lot of pressure, but they're having the same pressure."

There's a possibility of some movement on the roadwork timelines, said Mr. Soldo. But those talks won't occur until Regional budget discussions later this year.

**INSIDE**

**Comment** ..... 6  
**Business** ..... 10  
**Dateline** ..... 20  
**Classified** .... 24-26

**TUESDAY INSERTS**

- FM Industries\* • Fortinos\*
- Real Estate Section\* • Home Depot\*
- Portfolio of New Homes\*
- Flyers In Motion\* • On Site Magazine\*
- Sportchek\* • Fabian Furniture\*
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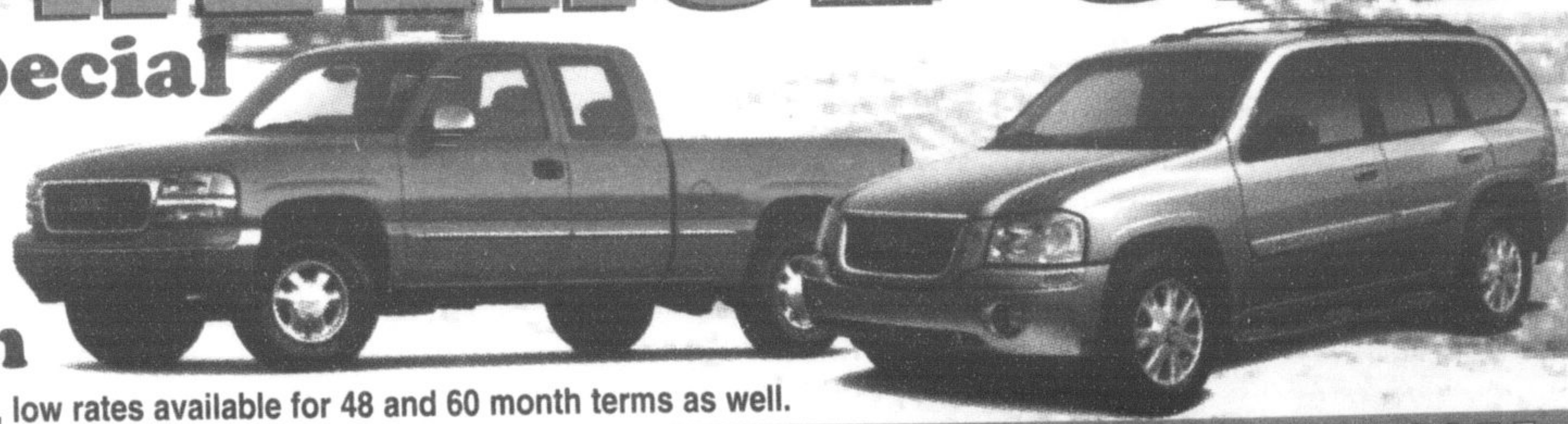
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