

Weekend Champion

Milton's Choice
Since 1860



ZAK'S PHARMACY
Milton's Independent Pharmacy
• Free Delivery
• 10% Seniors Discount
• All Drug Plans Accepted
• Written Drug Info. Available
"At Zak's We Care About Your Health"
70 Main St. E. 875-2424

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 143 No. 60

Friday, October 11, 2002

36 Pages

\$1.00 (GST included)

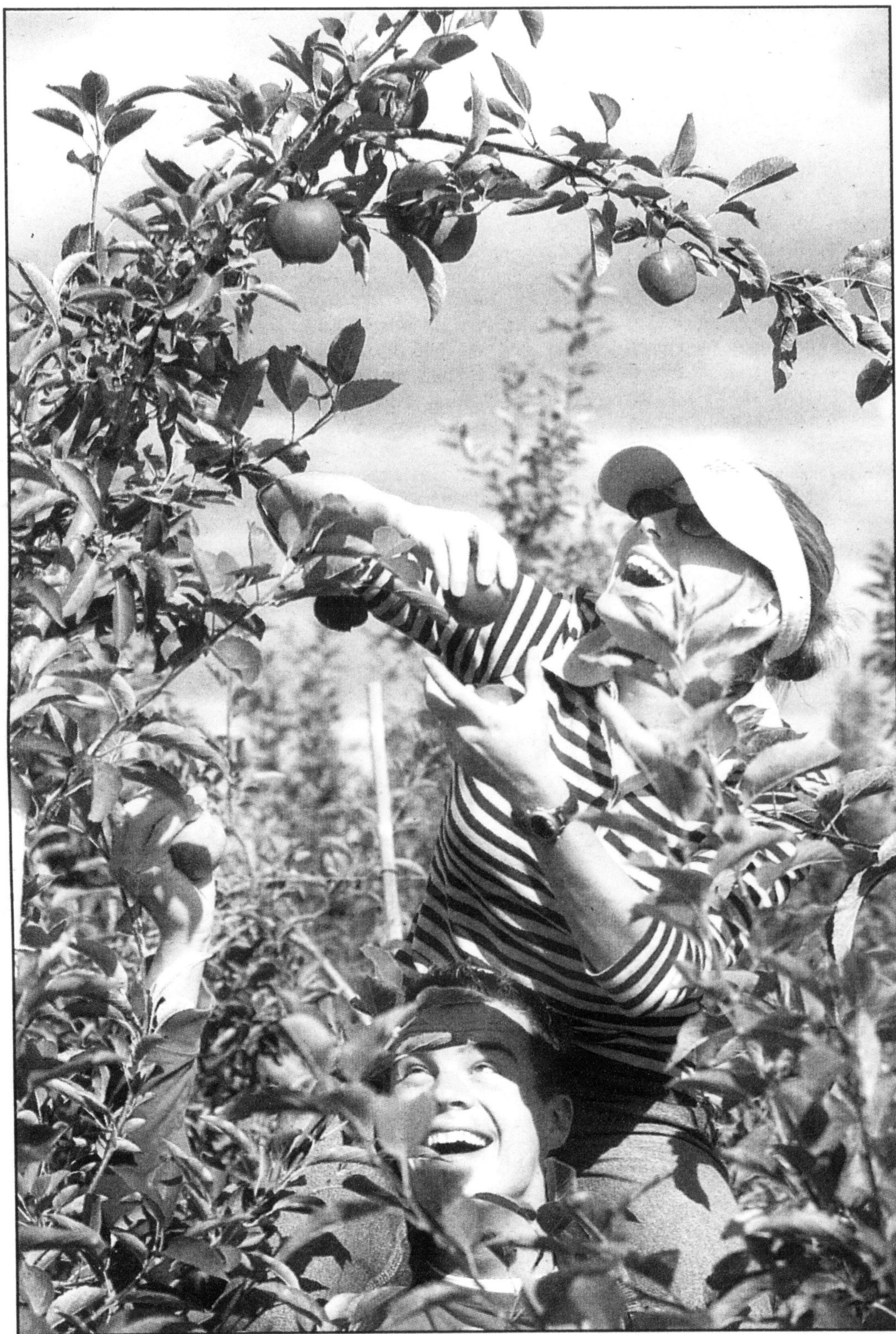


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Pick of the crop

Melissa Konat, on the shoulders of boyfriend Steve Burmaster, reaches for some of the best apples at the top of a tree at Chudleigh's Apple Farm Saturday. With fall finally here, apple season is now at its peak.

Fire department under close eye of fire marshal

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

The Champion

The Milton Fire Department is under watch by the Ontario Fire Marshal due to a lack of community fire prevention programs and poor response times.

Last week, Ontario Minister of Public Safety and Security Bob Runciman released a list of 15 communities being monitored by the Ontario Fire Marshal (OFM) — one of which is the Milton Fire Department.

"They (OFM) had a concern about our response time," said Milton Fire Chief Harold Penson. "They recommended a 10 and 10 (10 firefighters to the scene within 10 minutes of the 911 call) response to all structure fires. Since we hired firefighters around the clock at the station in July, we've been looking at how to improve our response time. We're not hiding from it. We're dealing with it."

Although he said he didn't know what the average response time has been since hiring full-time firefighters, he did say the average response time was 11 minutes prior to the station operating 24 hours a day. "It might be a little longer in the rural area. We wanted to wait a few months

since hiring the full-time guys before we looked at our response time. I'd say the full-time firefighters are on scene within three to four minutes now. We will definitely hit 10 and 10."

He said the OFM has been keeping tabs on the department for a year-and-a-half following a house fire on Trafalgar Road.

Chief Penson said the Oakville Fire Department was originally dispatched to the scene and called the Milton department for back-up. By the time the local station arrived on scene 17 minutes later, the house was fully engulfed.

The OFM has been regularly visiting the station to make sure the department is operating up to standard, the chief said.

He said the department is also looking at ways to improve its fire prevention programs. "We've been working with the fire marshal in completing a risk assessment of the town. We've been looking at public education and areas like senior buildings, where there could be serious hazards, and we started building our fire prevention around it. We also started our smoke alarm program in the town and in the rural areas."

Four-vehicle crash on 401

Rush-hour traffic came to a standstill Tuesday after a four-vehicle crash on Hwy. 401 at James Snow Parkway caused part of the highway to shut down for four hours.

A tractor-trailer unit was travelling east-bound at about 5:15 p.m. when it struck a truck. The collision caused another tractor-trailer unit to strike another tractor-trailer and a vehicle.

Two people were transported to Milton District Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

A 43-year-old Brampton man has been charged with careless driving.

INSIDE

Comment	6-7
HS Report	8
A&E	10-12
Dateline	25
Sports	26-28
Classified ...	29-31

INSERTS

• Friday, October 11 •

- Forever Young* • Business Depot* • Leather by Mann* • On Site Magazine* • Molly Maid*
- A Designers Touch* • GE Appliances*
- Sears* • Future Shop*

*Selected areas only

FALL INTO THRIFTY!
Take advantage of our FALLing prices. Rental rates starting at **\$19.95/Day** Call us for more details.

1-800-THRIFTY*
thrifty.com

88 Ontario St. N. Unit #5
Milton, ON L9T 2M7
905-875-3738

184 Guelph St.
Georgetown, ON L7G 4A6
905-877-7777

357 Queen St. (Achilles Mazda)
Acton, ON L7J 1R1
519-853-9287

Thrifty features quality products of DAIMLERCHRYSLER and other fine cars. ©2002 Thrifty Canada, Ltd. All rights reserved.

Thrifty Car Rental

SAVE MONEY ON PREMATURE TIRE WEAR
BOOK YOUR WHEEL ALIGNMENT TODAY!! from **\$69.95** Two wheel

Wallace
PONTIAC • BUICK • CADILLAC
905-878-2355

801 MAIN ST. E. MILTON
MON. - FRI.: 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM
TUES. 7:30 AM - 8PM
SAT. 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

FREE LOCAL SHUTTLE

• PONTIAC • BUICK • CADILLAC • GMC • PONTIAC • BUICK •