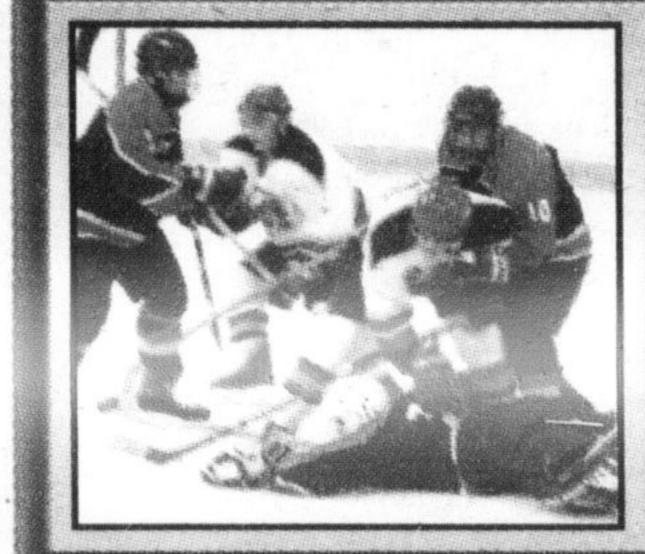
Percy Merry
parents make
final plea
to committee

See page 2





Merchants
deliver straight
shutout wins

See page 19

Construction
begins on new
east-end school

See page 3

FIFTH

WHEEL

TRUCK STOPS

# The Canadian Champion

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40 Pages





#### Big winner

Ben Wallace, local trainer and co-owner of Totally Western, winner of the 2002 Breeders Crown two-year-old colt pace, is all smiles as he holds up the trophy with daughter Jessica, 11, at Woodbine Racetrack Saturday night. The race carried a purse of \$943,809. See sports for full results and related photos of the Breeders Crown.

# Commission backs quarry expansion

By LISA TALLYN

Special to The Champion

Despite pleas from the public not to support an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan that would allow for an expansion of Dufferin Aggregates' Milton Quarry, the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) did just that Thursday.

Commission members voted 11-5 in favour of the Dufferin application to change the designation on about 169.5 acres in the Niagara Escarpment Plan area from Escarpment Rural to Mineral Resource Extraction Area. The quarry lands straddle the Milton-Halton Hills border.

More than 120 people, many wearing green Save the Escarpment badges, packed the Halton Hills Civic Centre for the meeting.

The vote came despite a recommendation from NEC staff not to support the amendment. In its report to the commission however, staff also included an alternative recommendation that the amendment could be supported with conditions, including the removal of wetlands from the licence and the identification of a buffer

## Challenge postponed

A challenge of Milton's smoking bylaw has been put on hold.

The issue — which was scheduled to go before the courts yesterday — was postponed because town council has been asked to re-consider the issue at its meeting Monday.

Whether or not the challenge will continue depends on what action, if any, council takes at that time, said Doug Quirt, solicitor representing the Hardball Cafe in the bylaw challenge.

area. That recommendation, with some changes, was supported.

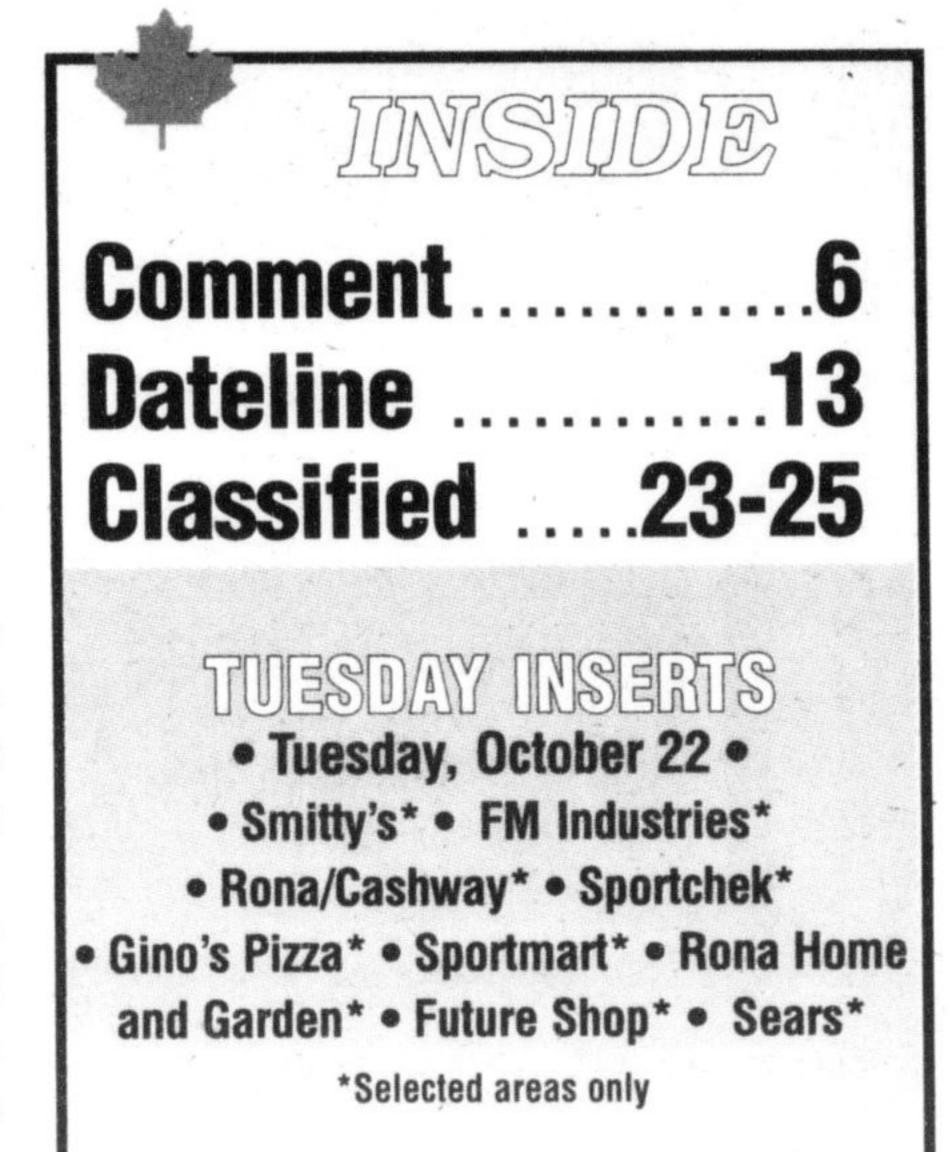
Commissioner Robert Boraks questioned the inclusion of the alternative recommendation, saying "this is not the norm" and asking if it was fair to future applications.

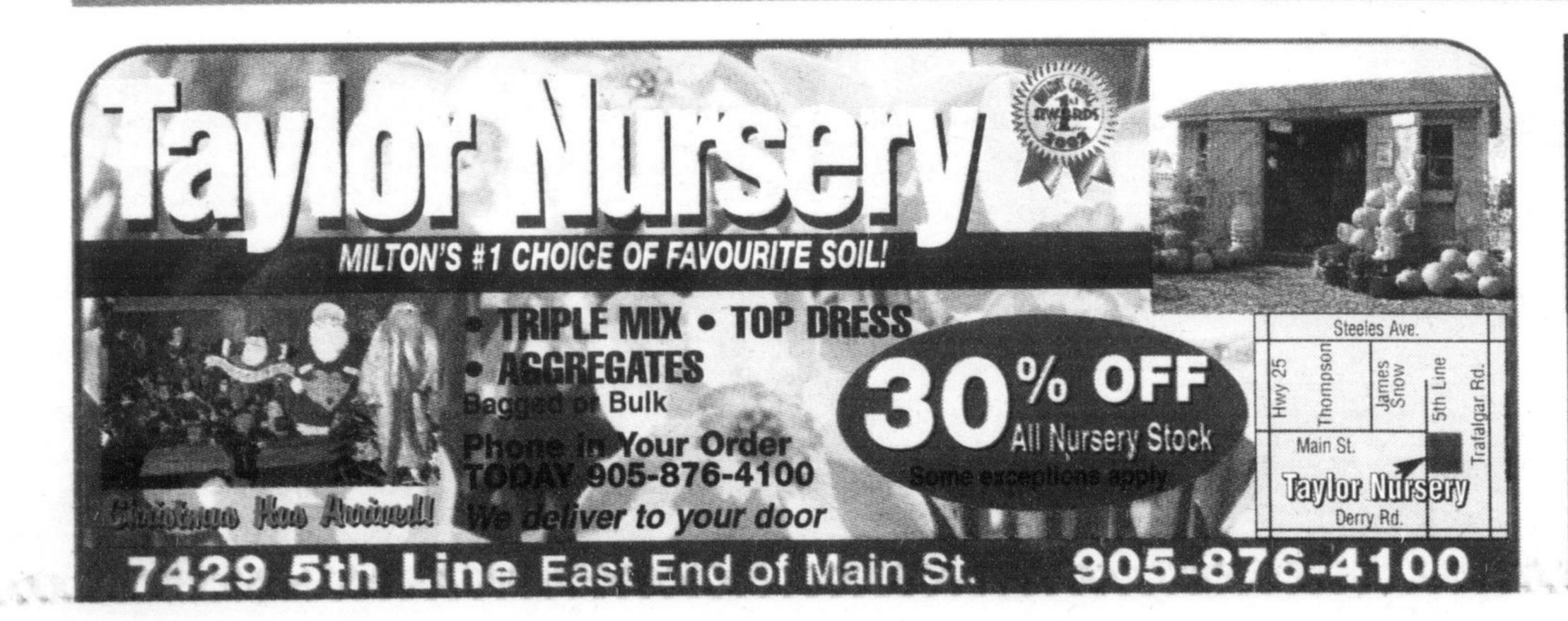
When commission planner David Johnston was questioned about the inclusion of an alternative recommendation he said he was instructed to include it by "higher ups" he later identified as NEC Director Mark Frawley and Chairman Don Scott.

On Monday, Mr. Frawley said while "it's probably true it's unusual to have it (alternative recommendation) built right in a report" it's not unusual for NEC staff to have prepared conditions on hand if the commission doesn't support its recommendation to reject an application.

Mr. Frawley said the alternative recommendation was included in the report due to the complexity of the application.

Commissioners heard from approxi• see EXPANSION on page 16





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