

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

Weekend
Champion
 Milton's Choice
 Since 1860

KAREN'S FLOWER SHOP
 Holiday Flowers and gifts
 487 Laurier Ave.,
 878-2881

A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 143 No. 82 Saturday, December 28, 2002

28 Pages

\$1.00 (GST included)

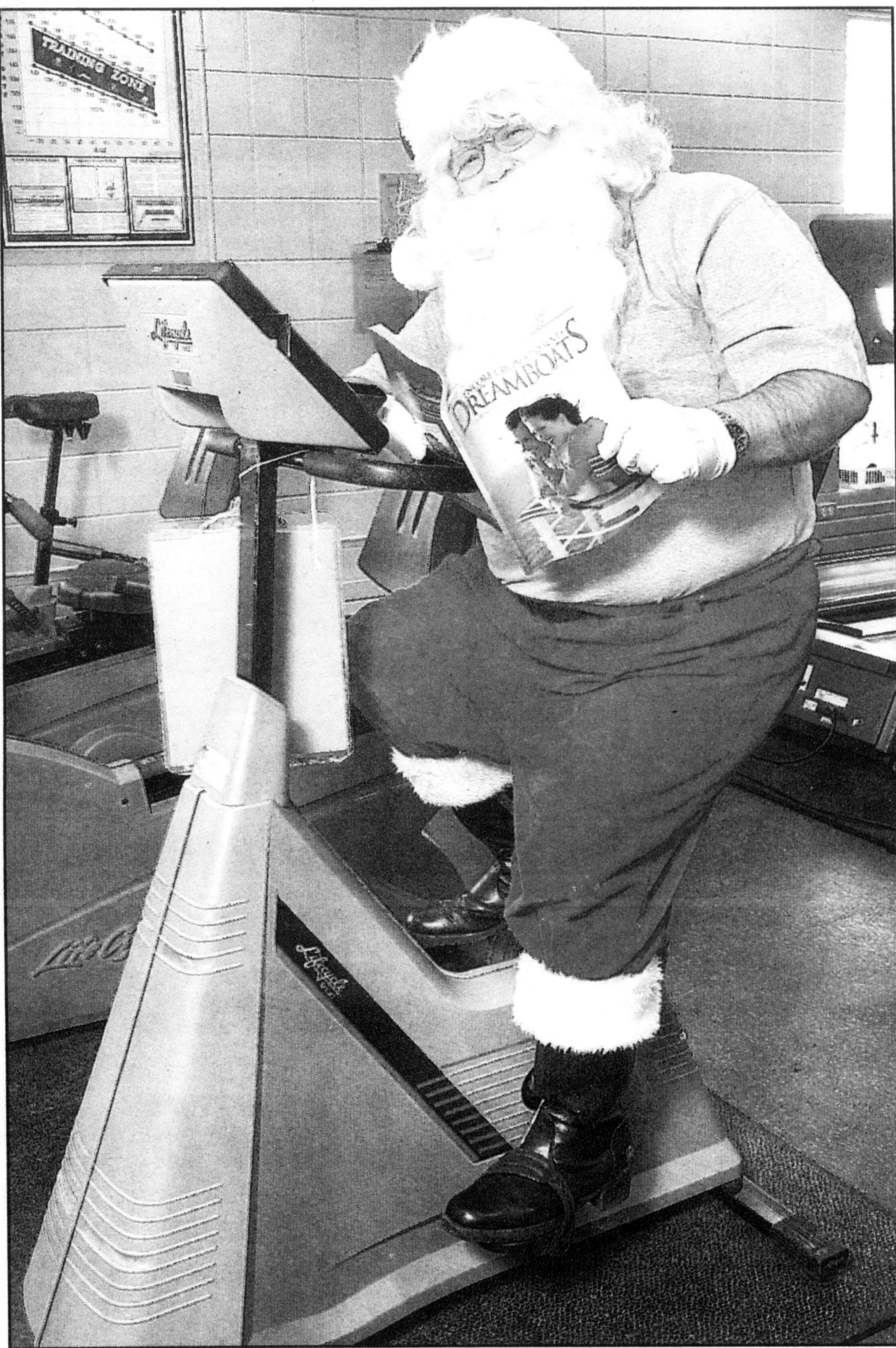


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Just cruisin'

Santa takes in a little exercise at the Milton Leisure Centre while daydreaming about a well-earned cruise with the Mrs. The leisure centre hosts an array of holiday swim and fitness classes over the Christmas break. For more information, call (905) 878-7946.

Local police support de-criminalizing pot on small scale only

But chief says he fears youths getting the wrong message

By LISA TALLYN
 Special to The Champion

Potentially looser laws on marijuana possession have received lukewarm support locally but Halton's police chief has expressed concern youths are getting a mixed message about drug use.

A Commons committee, chaired by Burlington MP Paddy Torsney, recommended earlier this month that Canadians should be allowed to grow and carry around 30 grams of marijuana for personal use at the risk only of a ticket and fine, not a criminal record. Marijuana would remain an illegal substance and trafficking in any amount would still be a crime.

Champion's bureau fund almost there

The Champion's Christmas Bureau Fund was within striking distance of its 2002 target at press time Monday afternoon.

A total of \$24,796 had been collected in the annual fundraising drive, which ensured that all local families had a nice Christmas, complete with dinner and toys for the children. This year's goal was \$25,000.

The fund picked up considerable steam after a slow start, with a number of sizeable donations from both businesses and individuals.

At press time, which was early due to the holidays, funds were still coming in and people had until 2 p.m. Tuesday to donate.

The final tally will be reported in this Tuesday's Champion.



Ean Algar

Legislation on the matter could be introduced early next year.

Halton Regional Police Chief Ean Algar said the police service, in keeping with the Canadian Association of

Chiefs of Police recommendation, supports possession of a small quantity of marijuana be treated as a non-criminal offence, but he stressed, that would be for the first offence only and at the police officer's discretion.

He said that recommendation is in line with what is already occurring in the courts.

Chief Algar stressed that recommendation comes with the caveat that a renewed National Drug Strategy be put in place that would include public education, a health component and harsher penalties for dealing and production of drugs.

Chief Algar however, isn't happy with
 • see SOME on page 16

INSIDE

- Comment 6-7
- Lifestyles 9-10
- Dateline 20
- Sports 21-23
- Classified ... 24-25

BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP
 Working #1 Harder to stay #1
 Specializing in Insurance Claims
 Bill's Auto Body Shop and Refinishing Services
 165 Nipissing Rd., Milton
 (905) 878-2721

Hawkins Animal Hospital
 Dr. Debbie Hawkins
 550 Ontario St. S., Unit 5A
 (located in PizzaHut Plaza)
 (905) 875-6888

HAD AN ACCIDENT?
 Specializing in insurance claims.
 ALL MAKES & MODELS
GALLINGER
 COLLISION & REFINISHING CENTRE
 655 Main St. E., Milton 875-8673 Ext. 238