

# Weekend Champion

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Obstacle course

Rebecca Thornton, 4, crawls through the Velcro Olympics tunnel that was part of Sam Sherratt School's Bloomin BBQ Sale Saturday. The event featured children's games, a barbecue, face painting and a spring plant sale.

## Region has extra \$15 million

By JASON MISNER

The Champion

Halton Region's top money managers can thank a dry summer and higher-than-anticipated growth for a \$15 million surplus for 2002.

In fact, these have been two main driving forces behind surpluses since 2000.

The Region recently released a report that showed a surplus of \$15 million last year. The 2003 budget was forecasted to be \$276 million

and came in at \$261 million.

Under regional policy, Halton can't have a deficit so it must have a balanced budget or a surplus.

The surplus has been put into reserves to be used mostly on regional capital projects like roads and sewer infrastructure.

A budget surplus can depend on factors that are beyond the control of the Region's financial stewards. That has been the case the last couple of years, said Jane MacCaskill,

the Region's treasurer and commissioner of corporate services.

Broken down, \$2.4 million of this year's surplus was due to higher fees collected from water and sewer rates. A dry summer meant homeowners typically used more water for things like to water thirsty grass. It's difficult, of course, to gauge exactly what the weather will be.

The Region budgeted about \$80 million for 2003.  
• see REGIONAL on page 4

## Region on the hunt for mosquito larvae

By JASON MISNER

The Champion

Halton Region is on the hunt for two larvae species that can carry the West Nile virus upon growing into adult mosquitoes.

An integral part of the Region's \$800,000 West Nile program started yesterday involving nine university students and two public health officials who are checking catch basins in Halton for larvae.

Larvae inspectors are using long poles equipped with a cup at one end to sample a small amount of water to see if larvae are wriggling about. Specifically, they're looking for the Culex larvae species in catch basins that are can carry West Nile virus when they grow into adult mosquitoes.

Catch basins – with a total of 35,000 in the region – are considered prime places for mosquitoes to breed.

Maurice Dickhout, Halton's manager of environmental health responsible for administering the West Nile program, said he will know today if the Culex species they've targeted has been found.

"We're in the process of completing the program."  
• see MUNICIPALITIES on page 5

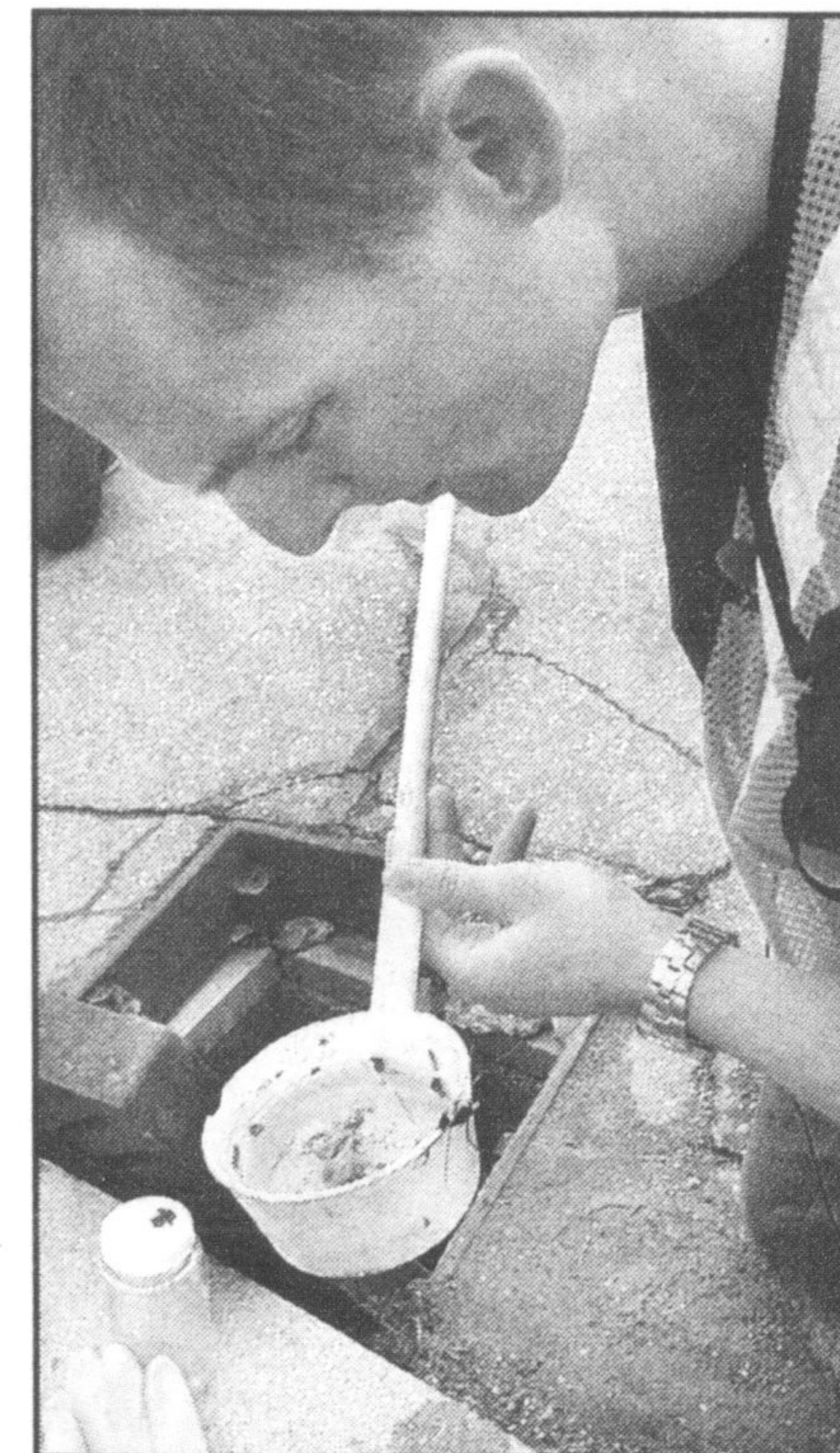


Photo by PETER C. McCUSKER

Public health inspector Matt Ruf examines standing sewage water for mosquito larvae.

## Taxi driver hurt in crash

A car-truck crash just north of Milton Wednesday claimed the life of a nine-year-old Georgetown boy and sent a Milton taxi driver to hospital.

The Milton Taxi cab was driving two boys home from Percy Merry School when the crash occurred at 3:15 p.m.

The taxi, driven by a 36-year-old woman, was travelling northbound on Ninth Line between No. 5 and 10 sideroads when it collided with a southbound Nielsen's dairy truck.

Alexander Bonehill was airlifted to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, where he died later that evening.

The taxi driver, Lisa Broatch of Milton, was listed in serious but stable condition at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto at press time yesterday. The other boy was treated at Georgetown Hospital and released.

The truck driver wasn't injured.

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### INSERTS

• Friday, May 16 •

- A&P • Shoppers Drug Mart • Zellers • Sears
- Cristello's Village Market • Vandongen's Tree Farm
- Canadian Tire • Sleep Factory • Pizza Hut
- Home Depot • Home Hardware • John Deere
- Acton Garden Market • Battlefield Equipment Rental
- Sobey's • Building Box
- Mississauga News New Homes • Neo Centrix
- Future Shop • Permacon

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