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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## A little help

Recruit firefighter Jay Rosewell gets a little help from seven-year-old Tomas, a Little Brother in the Big Brothers of Halton organization. About 30 Big and Little Brothers were at the Milton Fire Department's Central Station Saturday for an open house hosted by the Milton Firefighters Club. The event included a tour, demonstrations and a barbecue.

## Teachers and board reach two-year deal

By **TIM WHITNELL**

Special to *The Champion*

After a long contract dispute, Halton's public high school teachers and the school board have reached a deal.

Following three months of on-and-off negotiations, the board and its 750 full-time-equivalent secondary teachers came to a two-year agreement. It will see teachers receive a blended net pay boost of 6.24 per cent by the end of the contract.

The settlement also ends a three-month work-to-rule campaign by teachers.

The contract runs from September 2, 2002 to August 31, 2004.

The two sides reached a tentative deal late May 23 after six hours of bargaining that day and seven hours with a mediator the day before.

The president of the local chapter of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation said a "strong majority" of 88 per cent of the union's membership voted in favour of an agreement at a ratification meeting last Friday.

Joe Harwood said the contract calls for a 3 per cent pay boost retroactive to September, 2002 and another 0.46 per cent increase August 31, 2003. There's a 1.9 per

cent raise September 1, 2003, a 1.7 per cent increase February 1, 2004 and a 0.75 per cent raise August 31, 2004.

The Ontario government had guaranteed school boards funding for a one-year, 3 per cent raise for its employees.

The end pay rate for Halton's veteran public high school teachers at the top of the salary grid is being boosted 8.04 per cent and will be \$75,700 by the end of the contract.

By comparison, the top-end payout for senior secondary teachers at the other Greater Toronto Area boards averages about \$76,000, said Dawn Beckett-Morton, the chief negotiator for the Halton District School Board.

Ms Beckett-Morton said she's relieved a deal is done.

"There is no loss of jobs but there are no additions either. We both made movement."

Ms Beckett-Morton said the net cost of the contract "is higher than we had hoped but many (deals) across the province are much higher."

It was time to settle the impasse, she noted.

"Mediation does provide assistance with  
 • see NEXT on page 15

## Tentative deal at Catholic school board

The Halton Catholic District School Board has reached a tentative one-year contract with the Halton Secondary Unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA).

The deal, reached May 29, covers the period between September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004.

Halton Secondary Unit members plan to meet to ratify the new Memorandum of Agreement but no date has been set.

The Agreement will be presented for ratification by the Board of Trustees at its regular June 17 meeting.

No further details of the agreement will be made available until after ratification by both parties.

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### INSERTS

- Friday, June 6 •
- A&P • Loblaw's • Shoppers Drug Mart • Zellers • Walmart • IDA • M&M Meats • Sears • Food Basics • Marks Work Warehouse • Cristello's Village Market • Canadian Tire • No Frills • Fortinos • Home Depot • Home Hardware • Covers • Acton Garden Market • Ashley Furniture • Longos • International Pool & Spa • Sobeys • Building Box • Truserv Canada • Foodport • Here's My Card • Halton Wheels • ABM Security • Maytag • Valassis Shop & Save • Future Shop • Sears • Rogers Media
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