

I laughed at the play until I couldn't laugh anymore

There were three attempted murders Friday night at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre. And Milton residents who witnessed the scene couldn't stop laughing.

Wait a minute. Since when is murder funny?

When it happens in the Milton Players Theatre Group's latest production, *Murder at the Howard Johnson's*.

Directed by Geoff Ford and written by Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick, this play opens in a hotel room where Arlene Miller and her dentist, Mitchell Lovell — played by Sharon Beddoes and Graham Morley — are plotting to kill Arlene's husband, played by real-life hubby Tim Beddoes. When Mr. Miller enters the room, the pair attempts to carry out their plans, with hilarious results. Apparently, carrying out a homicide is more difficult than any of them could have imagined.

The next scene revolves around the same trio with a different pair plotting a murder. The story line is full of twists and turns, stemming from a fickle trio and a love triangle.

How funny this play is depends on the person watching it. And since humour is its greatest merit, if it's not funny, it's not much of anything.

I personally worried that one blonde lady sitting in the middle of



with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

Back stage

the auditorium was going to damage something the way she was laughing so loud and so hard at every second line. And although she was the loudest laughter in the room, she certainly wasn't out of place. The majority of play-goers seemed to be quite in their element.

I found myself laughing at the one-liners until about half-way through when I became tired of laughing. My fiancée didn't laugh much at all, although he said afterward that he enjoyed the performance.

It all depends on your sense of humour. If you don't have one, stay away, this isn't for you. If you enjoy clever, witty humour, stay away, this isn't for you.

If, on the other hand, you're the type of person who can laugh — not just chuckle, but really laugh — at Looney Tunes or the Red Green Show, *Murder at the Howard Johnson's* is probably your cup of tea.

It'll either be stupidly funny, or just stupid — there's no middle ground.

Expect to see some high quality acting in this play, particularly from the dentist and the husband. Mr. Beddoes plays the grumpy husband with such conviction, one wonders if perhaps he's not acting. Mr. Morley is equally skilled as the flamboyant, cheating dentist, and seemed quite comfortable wearing a unique mix of plaids, checks and florals — not to mention the Superman boxers, a highlight of the evening.

Ms Beddoes' portrait of floozy Arlene may have been more effective if the facility was larger than the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre — her facial expressions and body language seemed a bit overdone for the cozy venue.

The play was produced by Gary Metcalfe, and Susan Cranford was the stage manager.

Overall, *Murder at the Howard Johnson's* makes for a great night out.

Tickets still remain for performances October 30 and 31. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. each night, with an 8 p.m. show time. Tickets cost \$15 and can be purchased at Delacourt's on Main Street or by calling (905) 875-0629.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Double Vision

Grand opening of the Milton Sports Centre

Saturday, November 1, 2003, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Official opening ceremony (12:30 - 1 p.m.)

605 Santa Maria Boulevard
(intersection of Derry Road and Commercial Street)

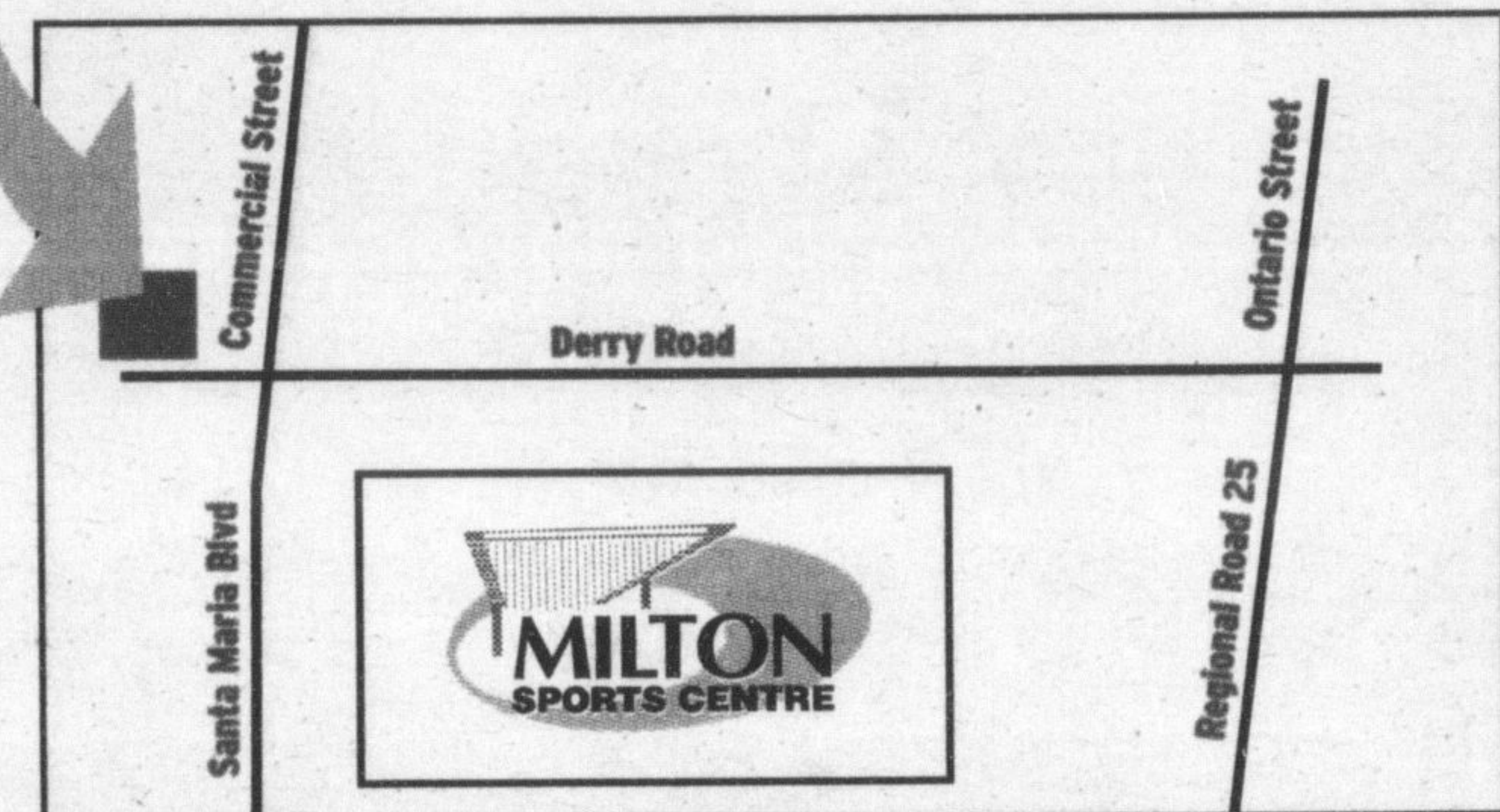
Join us for these fun-filled activities for the entire family

Activities starting at 11 a.m., including:

- Free skating (30-minute sessions)
- Musical entertainment
- Children's activities
- Hockey, skating and gymnastics demonstrations
- Guided facility tours
- Contests
- Barbecue
- DJ Skate for 9-13 year olds (6:30 - 9 p.m.) — admission to skate is free with a canned food donation!

Parking

Overflow parking is available at Our Lady of Victory School (Commercial Street, just north of Derry Road)



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For more information on the Milton Sports Centre and Grand Opening, please call 905-878-7252, ext. 2186 or visit www.milton.ca

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Before you start, think about it: every drag you take screws up your body.

Smoking can cause permanent damage to your body.

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And did we mention all that cash you'll be blowing in the process?

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