

Family eagerly awaiting Easter Seals fundraiser

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**

The Champion

If luck is on his side, one of Milton's youngest residents is on his way to meeting his two namesakes.

And although he's too young to appreciate it, his family is holding their breath in anticipation.

At just four months of age, Owynne Darcy Wallace will be participating in Sunday's TD Waterhouse Toronto Maple Leafs Skate for Easter Seals Kids with the rest of his family.

His parents, Kelly and David, are thrilled with the prospect of introducing Owynne Darcy to Toronto Maple Leaf Darcy Tucker and Owen Nolan — the two "family favourite" players after which the baby was named.

"It's a great cause and an opportunity to meet players," Ms Wallace said of the event, adding that participants actually skate with the players.

For the past two years, the Wallace family has participated in the Easter Seals event, which takes place at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto. But this year will be extra special, Ms Wallace said, because of the extra family member who will be experiencing it for the first time.

Ms Wallace said she appreciates that the goal of the event — helping kids — is always kept in the forefront.

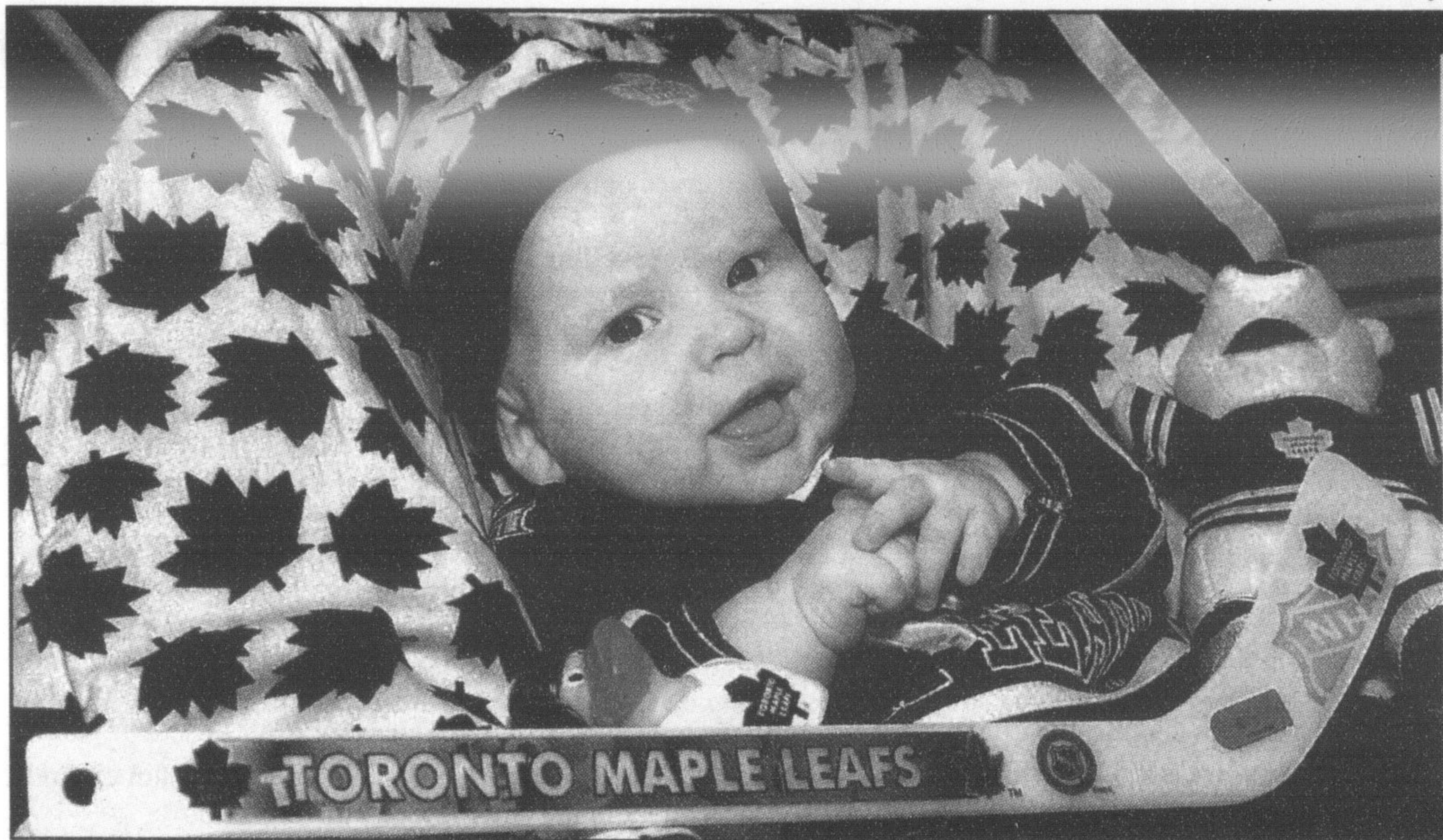
"It isn't all about the players. People know what they're there for, and it's just a bonus to meet the player they admire most," she said.

Luck will be a factor Sunday, since participants take turns on the ice, as do the NHL players and no one knows ahead of time who will be there when.

The Wallace family is still trying to raise money in order to meet — and hopefully surpass — the required \$1,000 to participate. Last year 11-year-old Caitlind Wallace raised \$500 by herself. As of Friday, the family was approaching the \$300 mark.

Miltonians who want to help the family meet their fundraising goal can send an e-mail to dwallace@stn.net. They'll then receive a link to a secure Internet site where they can pledge on-line.

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



Owynne Darcy is surrounded by by some of the memorabilia — including a stick, blanket and rubber ducky — that'll accompany him at the Toronto Maple Leafs Skate for Easter Seals Kids.

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