

Best Homes

Real Estate
See what's on the market inside

SPORTS
Mustang softballers humbled by Georgetown
Page 21



COMMUNITY
Drury gearing up for 25th anniversary
Page 8



BRITE SMILE

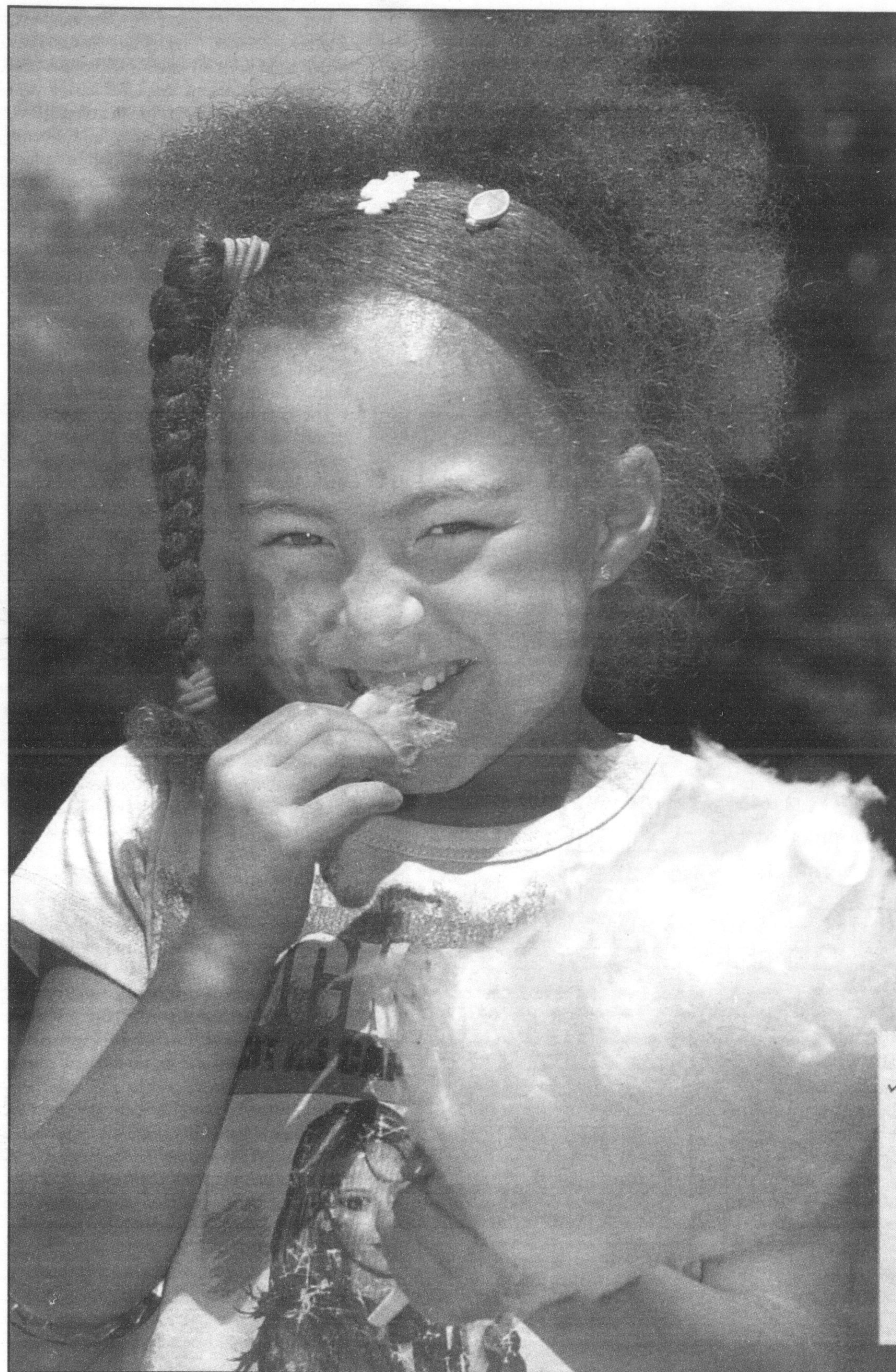
- Breakthrough teeth whitening treatment
- Renowned, 1 hour whitening system
- Long lasting results

Exclusively at this location
DR. LARRY TENASCHUK
905-878-9882
www.britesmile.com

The Canadian **Champion**



A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 145 NO. 23 TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2004 \$1.00 (GST included) 40 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Halton dishing out more than its share

Report on pooling system released

By **JASON MISNER**
Special to The Champion

Halton has crunched the numbers and its financial stewards say, if the Province did its calculations correctly, the Region could save nearly \$7 million a year in social services pooling costs paid annually to Toronto.

But Halton ultimately wants the Ontario government to abolish pooling completely and use more appropriate revenue sources like income taxes to fund stifling social housing and assistance costs.

A much-anticipated regional staff report was released at Wednesday's administration and finance committee meeting examining the contentious issue of pooling. It's a system that involves a handful of GTA municipalities that pay a portion of their tax dollars — collected from property taxes — to help Toronto pay for its social services programs.

The report was requested by councillors to study what the impact would be on Halton if nearby Hamilton was to be included in pooling, which it currently isn't. Hamilton has asked the Province to be part of the system.

The 10-page report concluded Halton is paying more than it should be.

It stated its current pooling contribution is based on outdated average assessment base figures. Staff determined the current pooling cost for Halton should be around \$28.4 million dollars a year based on actual assessment numbers.

Comparing that figure to the 2003 pooling contribution of \$35.2 million, Halton would save \$6.8 million.

According to the report, Halton pays more than \$28 million to administer its own social services needs, excluding GTA pooling costs.

If Hamilton is added to the current pooling system, using the 1998 tax figures, Halton would pay between \$2.1 and \$3.2 million more.

Between 1999 and this year, Halton handed over more than \$260 million for pooling. The other two municipalities that make significant contributions to pooling are York and Peel regions.

Peel paid \$62 million this year alone. Pooling was created by the then-Tory

• see **POOLING** on page 7

Sweet treat

Six-year-old Olivia Spence enjoys all the treats that E.W. Foster's Mayfest had to offer, including cotton candy and face painting. The event was held Saturday.

Photo by **GRAHAM PAINE**

Inside

Comment6
Dateline9
Champion Country ..13-16
Classified23-26

TUESDAY INSERTS

- Tuesday, June 1 •
- Culligan* • Pizza Hut*
- Country Depot* • Rona/Cashway*
- SportChek* • Cosmetic Warehouse*

*Selected areas only

MILTON TOYOTA
www.miltontoyota.com

Area Rugs 20-70% off
Wide Selection
Wools Included!
Until June 30/04
CARPET • HARDWOOD • CERAMIC • CORK • LAMINATE • VINYL

tielemans interiors
878-3435
340 Main Street Milton
www.floorsfirst.com/tielemansinteriors/

HOURS
8:30-6:00 Mon - Wed
8:30-8:00 Thu & Fri
9:00-4:00 Saturday

FOUR SEASONS OF COLOUR

Crawfords Country Gardens
905-878-0223
www.crawfords.ca

Campbellville Rd., Milton
1/4 km east of Hwy 25
1 km north of 401