

Best Homes

Real Estate
See what's on the market inside

SPORTS
Local lacrosse players shine
Page 22



COMMUNITY

Housing checklist aims to improve life for local seniors
Page 8



Emerald ISLE
Hot Tubs
400 Main St. E., Milton
905-693-9948

The Canadian Champion

LINGERIE SALE!!
5 DAYS ONLY!!
ON NOW!
CYPRESS
171 Main St. E., Milton
905-693-0932
www.cypressbridal.com

A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 145 NO. 27

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2004 \$1.00 (GST included)

44 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Oh, so close

Dwain McGillvary of Milton Chrysler-Dodge reacts to his missed putt during the Deidre and Friends Foundation Golf Tournament Thursday at Granite Ridge Golf Club. Meanwhile, Jennifer Murphy, left, and Tarah Cherwoniac — both of Telus Mobility (inset) — have lots of fun participating in the tournament. The event raised about \$7,000.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Police seize \$259,000 worth of pot plants from rural residence

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN
The Champion

Neighbours residing near a nondescript brown house at the Milton/Acton border were shocked to learn last week they were living next to a full-blown marijuana grow operation.

While executing a search warrant at a rural Hwy. 7 home Wednesday afternoon, police found 259 marijuana plants in various stages of growth with a potential street value of \$259,000, Halton Regional Police said.

Also seized at the property, which lies between Fourth and Fifth lines, was about \$2,000 in growing equipment.

"I had no idea — it's shocking," said a neighbour who didn't want to give her name. "Now-a-days you have to keep mum. You can't trust people, unfortunately."

Neighbour Mike Free, who wasn't aware a raid had taken place, said he couldn't be more surprised. "We love it here — it's quiet and peaceful."

Officers searching the home were investigating an alleged theft of hydro electricity. During the search, an electrical bypass was traced to a barn on the property where the grow operation was discovered.

A police spokesperson said a further arrest is anticipated.

The anonymous neighbour said she didn't notice anything amiss at the house police raided.

She added she wouldn't know what to look for.

"I wouldn't know marijuana if I saw it." Det. Al Albano, of the Halton Regional Police Drug and Morality Bureau, said educating the public is key.

"The more (education) we do, the more people know what to look for, and the more calls we get."

Signs that a home is being used to grow

marijuana include coverings on all the windows and an odd odor. Some of these houses don't appear lived in, but have frequent visitors. An unattended appearance is also characteristic.

Richard Murray, vice-president of operations for Milton Hydro, said marijuana grow houses are becoming increasingly common in Halton.

There are various ways of bypassing hydro, but the common goal is to tie into the electricity before it reaches the metre so it doesn't register the heavy consumption, raising suspicions, Mr. Murray said.

Milton's large rural area is conducive to grow houses since many of the properties have barns and sheds set back from the road, he said.

Charged with production of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and theft of electricity under \$5,000 are Robert Gordon Popp, 36, and Troy Vernon, 23, both of Hwy. 7.

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

Inside

Comment6
Champion Country ..15-20
Dateline21,31
Classified24-27

TUESDAY INSERTS

- Tuesday, June 15 •
- Culligan* • Pizza Hut* • Rona/Cashway*
- SportChek* • Sportmart*

*Selected areas only

MILTON TOYOTA

www.miltontoyota.com

WALLACE PONTIAC BUICK GMC

NO CHARGE SUNROOF!

2004 Pontiac Sunfire Sportec

All the features of the Sunfire SL plus: 4-speed automatic, air conditioning, no-charge sunroof, CD player with 6 speakers, 15" aluminum wheels, spoiler, 2 DR.

Lease* **\$259¹³** Per month OR Cash Purchase **\$14,998**

*Lease price based on \$0 down plus freight, security & all applicable taxes. Cash prices are plus frt. & all applicable taxes and cannot be combined with any other offer. OAC. See dealer for details.

NO MONEY DOWN!

Wallace Pontiac 801 Main St. E., Milton Mon - Thurs. 9-9pm, Fri & Sat 9-6pm Service Open Sat. 8:30-2 pm 905-878-2355