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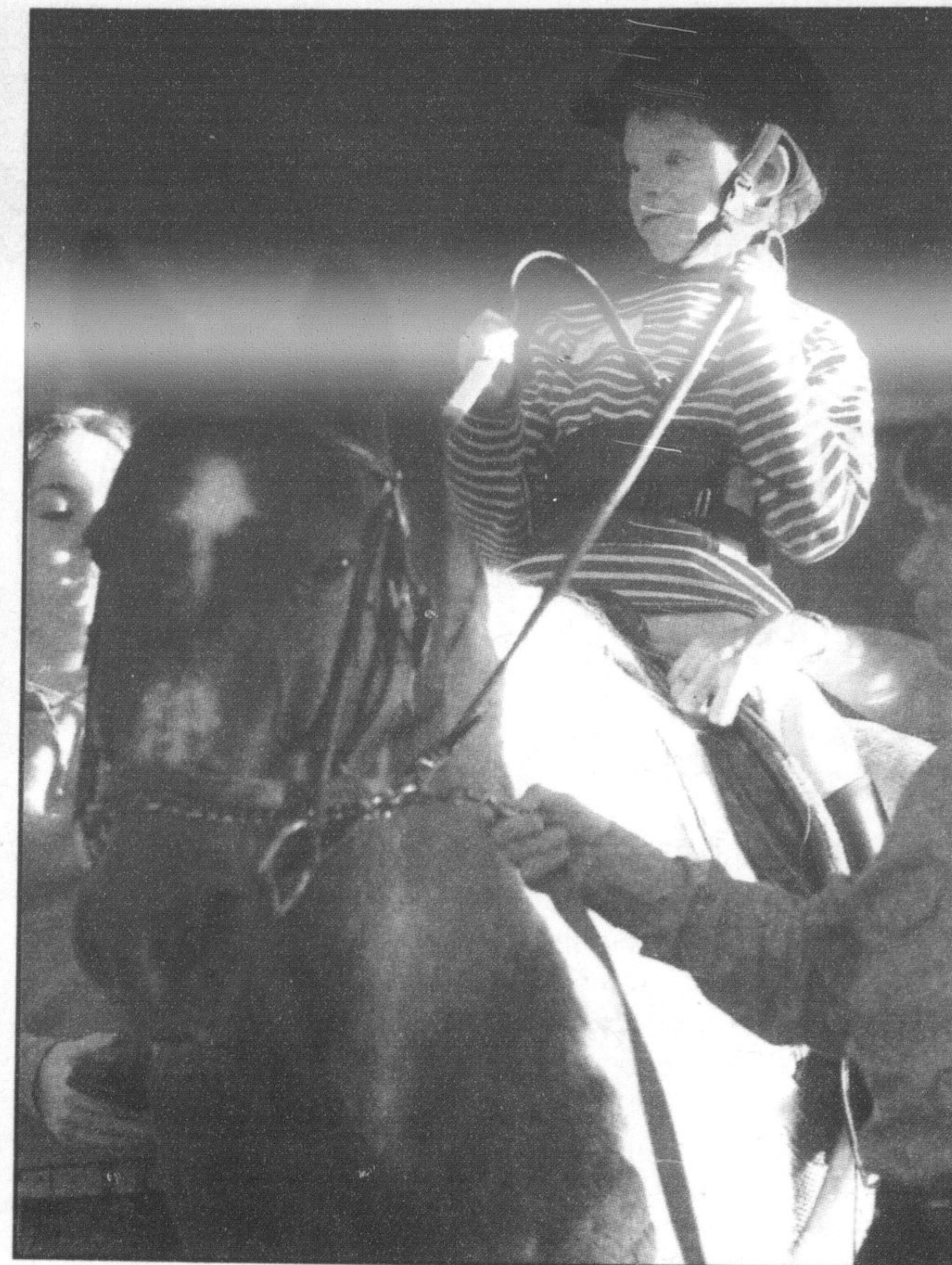
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Rates effective as of May 31, 2004.



Andrew Moogk, 8, participates at the open house of Windrush Stable Therapeutic Riding Centre.

Riding centre a magical place for the disabled

By **ROBIN DOWNTON-POIRIER**

Special to The Champion

Many disabled people have been confined to wheelchairs for part, if not all, of their lives. They may have never had a chance to walk or experience the independence and freedom one does when they're fully mobile, something many of us take for granted.

Windrush Stable Therapeutic Riding Centre is helping disabled persons to 'walk' by using horses.

The centre, located at Hendervale Equestrian Complex (No. 1 Sideroad on the Milton/Oakville/Burlington border), teaches disabled persons how to ride horses, giving them independence and assurance they may not have known before.

"The motion that a walking horse makes is very similar to that of a human walking," explained Aileen McNabb, a volunteer member of Windrush's board of directors.

"The horses move back and forth and side to side much like we do when we walk. Some students that have been in a wheelchair all their lives have never experienced 'walking' before and are quite excited."

The stable has existed for more than 25 years and was owned by the parents of Leslie Ridout, the riding centre's program director and head instructor. Formerly located on Regional Road 25, Windrush moved to the Hendervale property about two years ago and has made a strong impression on everyone involved.

• see CENTRE on page 21

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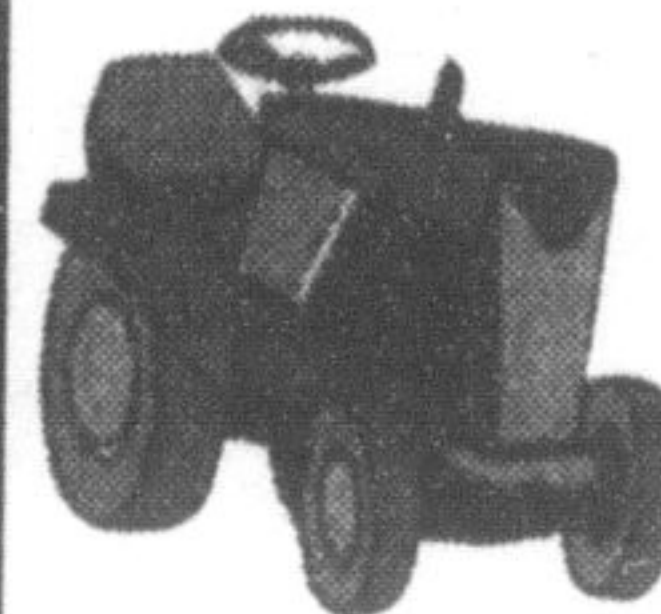
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