The Canadian Champion, Friday, July 16, 2004—11

## Recently-launched CHAT program to teach teens how to prevent accidents

A program aimed at making the community safer by teaching teens how to prevent accidents was launched last week at Milton District Hospital.

The Community and Hospital Against Trauma (CHAT) program is an injury awareness and prevention program presented to high school students aged 14 to 19 years old.

CHAT demonstrates the tragic reality of injury-causing situations, but stresses the link between the consequences of dangerous behaviours and the choices available to prevent injury.

"The launch of the Milton CHAT program comes at a time when tragic accidents

flood the nightly news," said Joleen Hammond, a registered nurse at the Milton District Hospital's emergency department. "If we educate our younger population about the choices they should be making to prevent accidents, these stories might become less frequent."

CHAT takes the form of a 60-minute school assembly that introduces injury prevention issues. During this assembly, an injury survivor shares his or her personal

The message throughout CHAT is clear - It's your life. It's your body. It's your choice to drive sober, buckle up, wear the gear, look first and get trained.

The CHAT program, beginning in September, will be offered to high schools in north Halton. The program is looking for a community sponsor to assist with financing the program. For more information on CHAT or becoming a sponsor, e-mail Joleen Hammond at jhammond@haltonhealthcare.on.ca.

### St. John hosts camp

Swimming, hiking, mini putt... and a little first aid training on the side. That's what kids who attend the St. John Ambulance Summer Camp 2004 will get.

Each year, the Oakville-Milton branch of the organization runs a weekly summer camp for children aged 6 to 14. The camp runs each week until the week of August 23, with two different sets of activities from which to choose.

"Our camp is full of fun and exciting activities while also helping to promote first aid and safety awareness, enabling children to get exposure to first aid at an early age," said a camp spokesperson.

Any proceeds raised from the camp will be used to benefit the organization's volunteer programs and community health initiatives. To reserve a spot, call (905) 469-9325.

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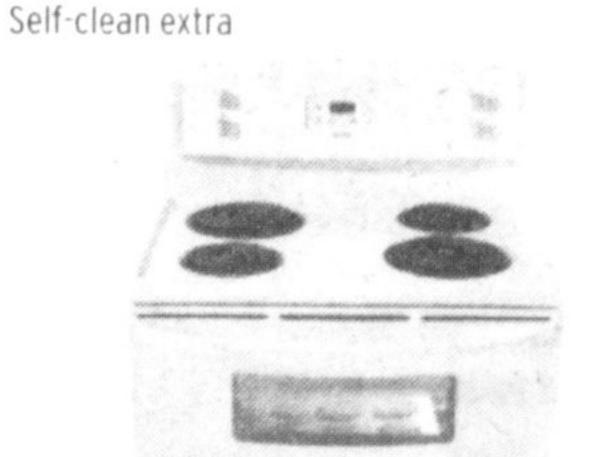
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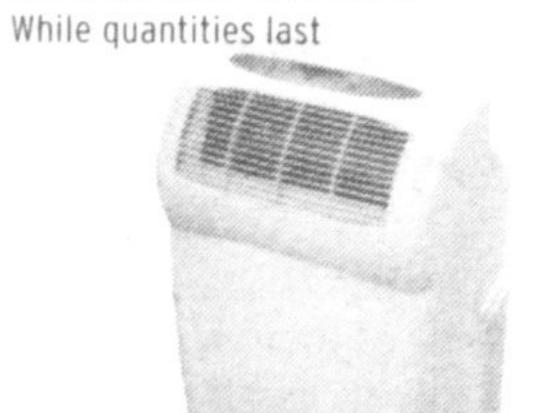
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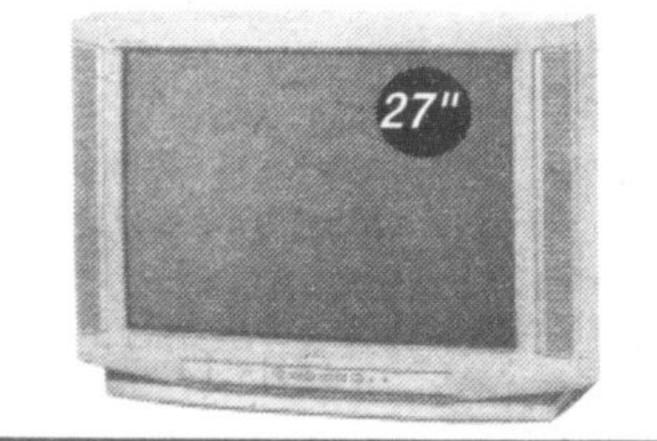
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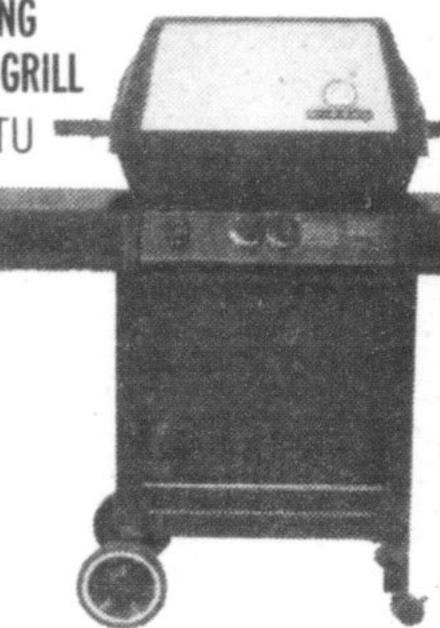
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