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& friends
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File photo by Ron Bull/Toronto Star
Four local couples — including Bernetta and Ken Thistle of Milton, Gregory and Lorraine Ulrick of Mississauga, Margaretta and Michael Banks of Milton and Joe D'Alessandro and Debbie Smyth of Milton — shared in a \$14.5 million LOTTO 6/49 jackpot.

Year in review

**2004 was rich in news
— both good and bad**

The past year had no shortage of tragedy and controversy for Miltonians — with change, unusual circumstances and excitement sprinkled in to a news-rich 2004 as well.

Here, in no particular order, is a rundown of the 10 events that made the biggest headlines.

Manchisis lay Joseph to rest

A nightmarish ordeal met with some closure on May 12, when DNA results confirmed a body discovered near Montreal was that of Joseph Manchisi. The 20-year-old Miltonian, along with 22-year-old Robert Grewal of Mississauga, had been missing since November and were presumed dead long before their bodies were found. The young men, as well as 15-year-old Rene Charlebois, are believed to have been killed by pedophile Douglas Moore, who killed himself at Maplehurst Correctional Centre April 2. Moore's former wife, Sandra Martin, and a 14-year-old boy were charged with two counts each of accessory after the fact to murder in the deaths of Mr. Manchisi and Mr. Grewal.

Local couples strike it rich

For four local couples, 2004 could be summed up in just one word — Jackpot! First Maurice and Monica Daviau netted a Good Friday windfall by scooping up \$10.5 million from Lotto Super 7. Then it was four couples — three from Milton — sharing in a \$14.5 million Lotto 6/49 jackpot in



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE
Joseph Manchisi Sr. (centre) hugs the mother and brother of his murdered son, Joseph.

August. The lucky eight — including Miltonians Bernetta Thistle, Ken Thistle, Joe D'Alessandro, Debbie Smyth, Margaretta Banks and Michael Banks — met through a dart league and won with a last-minute ticket purchase at the Milton Kitchen Food Fair.

Parrott's killer gets life

Mississauga's Douglas Stokes, 21, received a mandatory life sentence for the second-degree murder of Miltonian Murray Parrott — who was stabbed to death in the early morning of August 31, 2001

after leaving the former Knight Cap on Main Street. A man walking his dog discovered the body a few hours later behind the Milton Curling Club. Friends and family of the slain 53-year-old said the life sentence offered little consolation for their loss, especially since Mr. Stokes would be eligible for parole in 12 years — minus the two-and-a-half years he'd already spent in custody. "No amount of time could give him back the third of his life he lost," said Mr. Parrott's wife of 27 years, Pat Parrott.

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