

Local man recognized for saving suicidal youth

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

A local man who rescued a suicidal youth from the path of an oncoming train has received commendations from the Governor General and Halton Regional Police for his efforts.

Over the past few weeks, Milton's Shane Bascoe has been showered with recognition for his heroic act that he says is "something any Canadian would do."

The incident happened April 29, 2004. Mr. Bascoe was working at the MacMillan Detention Centre, a youth facility on Boston Church Road.

"I was outside with nine other residents playing some basketball," the modest man recalled of the day.

It was then he noticed a 15-year-old male who was a mental health resident at the centre come outside and walk across the road, heading toward a field.

While staff had been instructed to give the youth some time alone to cool down if he walked off the property — an opportunity not every resident had — Mr. Bascoe noticed something was definitely wrong.

"After a couple minutes I realized he was walking farther and farther from the facility," he said.

After giving instructions for the police to be called, Mr. Bascoe took off after the youth, calling his name. They ended up at the railroad tracks, where the youth sat down and planted his feet firmly on the inside of the tracks and his hands on the outside, bracing himself.

"That's when I began speaking with him... we had a good rapport," said Mr. Bascoe, noting they used to play ping-pong together every night.

"I basically said, 'Come on let's go back and play some ping pong.' But he said he didn't care, that he wanted to end his life. Just the look the kid had in his eyes... I'll never forget it."

After about 10 minutes, a train began approaching from the north. "I told him then that I was going to try and pull him off the tracks," said Mr. Bascoe.

But when that method didn't work, he had to result to desperate measures — stepping and punching on the youth's hands.

"I didn't want to do that, but I had no

other choice," he said.

With only about 10 seconds to spare, Mr. Bascoe managed to get the youth off the tracks. He noted that throughout the scary ordeal, he had his own young son in mind.

"I thought, 'This is somebody's child,'" he said. "Now I've given him a second chance at life."

Despite his actions, the local resident doesn't consider himself a hero and instead praised the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) and its response to the situation.

"They just did a perfect job. They made sure he was safe and secure," Mr. Bascoe noted.

He recently received a certificate of commendation from the Governor General and a congratulatory certificate from the Town of Milton, both presented at a Milton council meeting. He also was honoured by the HRPS with a commendation.

Mr. Bascoe summed up his life-saving actions by saying, "It was instinct. It's something I never thought about twice and I'd do it again if I had to."

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

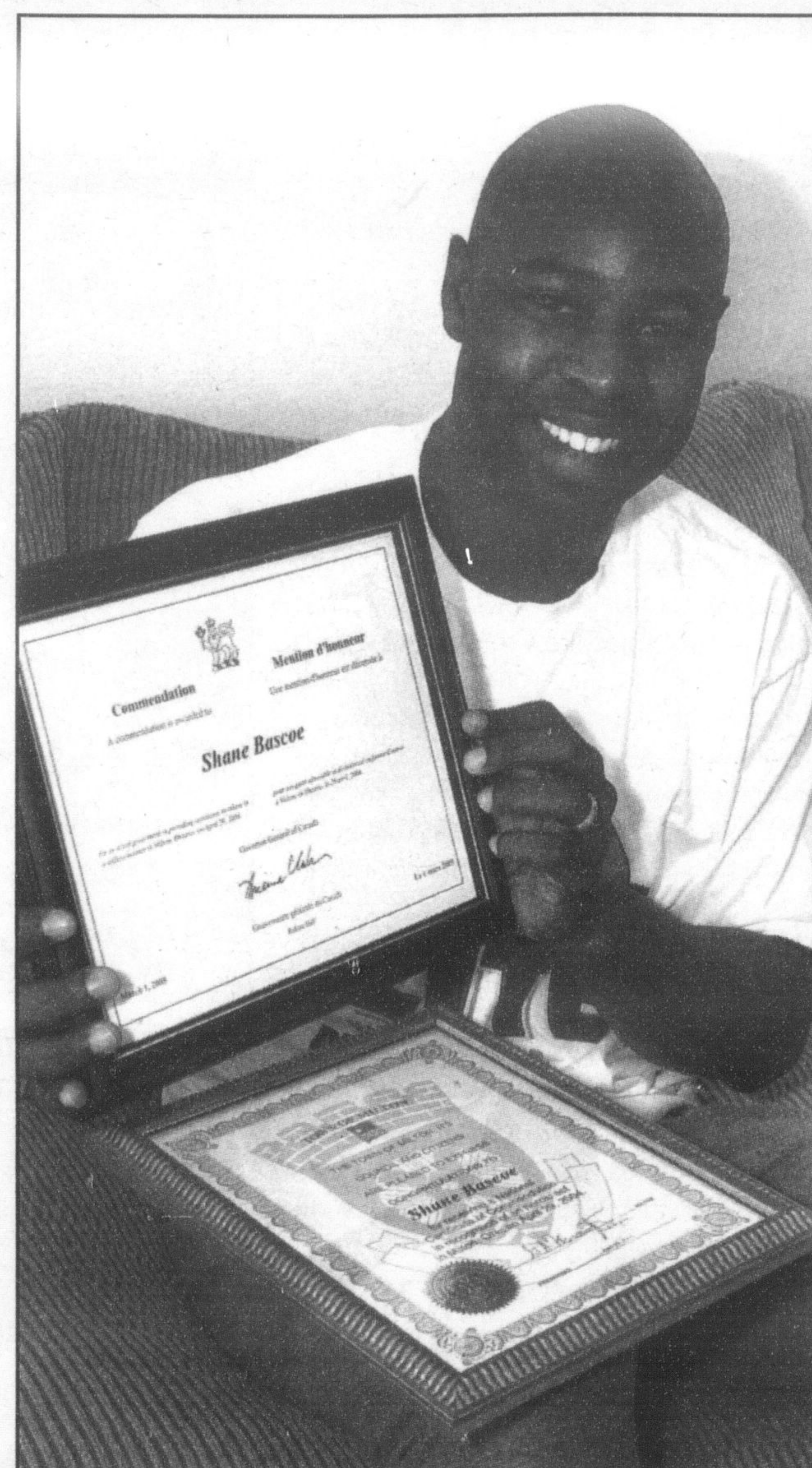


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton's Shane Bascoe shows his awards from the Governor General and the Town of Milton.



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Volunteer Opportunities Committee/Board Vacancies

The Town of Milton invites you to help make decisions and provide input by volunteering for one or more of the following committees. With the exception of the Library Board, these Committees act in an advisory capacity to Milton Town Council. Appointments to all of these Committees are for the term concurrent with Milton Council (Expiring November 30, 2006).

Qualified applicant(s) must be a resident of Milton, or an owner or tenant of land in the municipality, or the spouse of such an owner or tenant, or employee(s) of a business located in the municipality or student(s) attending a school located in the Town of Milton and must be a minimum of eighteen years of age on the date of appointment.

	Contact for Inquires
Trails Advisory Committee (1 Member Needed) • Acting as a sounding board and/or identifying issues or bringing forward ideas or recommendations that impact trails development, maintenance and usage of Milton's trail systems.	Frank Loconte, Parks Technologist (905) 878-7252 ext. 2168 or frank.loconte@milton.ca
Milton Accessibility Advisory Committee (3 Members Needed with Disabilities) • Authority under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 • Advise and assist in promotion and facilitation of a barrier-free Town for citizens of all abilities (universal accessibility), including persons with disabilities.	Janet Davidson, Coordinator of Community Programs (905) 878-7252 ext. 2755 or janet.davidson@milton.ca
The Milton Public Library Board (1 Member needed) • Authority under the Public Libraries Act and Milton By-law 15-74 • Provides a comprehensive and efficient public library service that reflects the community's needs.	Leslie Fitch, CEO Secretary-Treasurer, Milton Public Library (905) 875-2665 ext. 3252 or http://www.mpl.on.ca

Application forms are available from www.milton.ca or from the Clerk's Division, Town of Milton, 43 Brown Street, Milton, Ontario between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and will be **accepted until June 10, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.** In accordance with the Freedom of Information and Privacy legislation, applicant information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used strictly for volunteer candidate selection. Only qualified applicants will be contacted.

Troy McHarg, Town Clerk (905) 878-7252, ext. 2132

Employment Opportunities

The Town of Milton is looking for experienced part-time day and evening staff for the following positions located at the Milton Leisure Centre:

- Fitness Instructors**
- Weight Room Staff**
- Childcare**
- Personal Trainers**

Applicants must have current First Aid/CPR.

Interested applicants should submit a resume to:

Town of Milton, Department of Corporate Services,
 43 Brown St., Milton, Ontario L9T 5H2
Attention: Coordinator, Human Resources

Fax: (905) 878-4231
 E-mail: humanresources@milton.ca

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