

Milton • Means Business

Troy's Diner catching on fast with Miltonians

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Troy Newton waits in anticipation as a reporter does the very difficult task of sampling a chocolate-banana milkshake. It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it.

Leaning forward, he waits for the compliments he knows are coming.

He may have opened his restaurant, Troy's Diner, just six weeks ago, but he's discovered it doesn't take long for customers to adopt favourite items.

"It's good, isn't it? Now you see why so many people order it."

A Miltonian born and raised, Mr. Newton said the community has welcomed his Main Street restaurant — formerly Benny's Deli — with open arms and mouths. The restaurant opened August 1, but already there are some days when line-ups snake outside the restaurant.

"It goes quicker than it looks," he assured.

Saturday and Sunday mornings are the busiest time, Mr. Newton said, with customers coming for the all-day breakfast. It seems the favourite time for breakfast is, in fact, breakfast time.

Along with the banana-chocolate milkshakes, Mr. Newton said there's another menu item that's selling like hotcakes (which Troy's also serves).

The Classic breakfast special offers hungry patrons three strips of bacon, three eggs — one more than most restaurants, Mr. Newton said proudly — homefries, toast and jam, all for \$3.99.

"There's nothing on the menu that you haven't cooked for yourself," he said. "It's basic, home-cooked food."

One of the larger items on the menu is a one-pound hamburger.

"In the first 30 days we sold 85 of these," Mr. Newton said, adding all the meat is purchased locally.

Stepping into Troy's Diner is like stepping into the restaurant hang-out of the Happy Days crew. It's a warm atmosphere with red and white checked tablecloths and retro Coke paraphernalia decorating the walls.

"As soon as I walk in, I feel good about the place," he said.

The Coke items that used to junk up his basement — to his wife's dismay, Mr. Newton said — now contribute to a unique atmosphere. And, he said, he's always getting new Coke stuff from customers to put up.

"Great food and fair prices," are what Mr. Newton said the patrons are coming for. "You can actually afford to eat here once or twice a week without being financially strapped."

The fact there's no other old-fashioned, diner-style eatery in Milton is definitely a plus, he said, adding people have actually thanked him for opening.

Many of his regulars are seniors from the nearby apartment buildings, while others are teens and young families.

One of the servers, Nicole May, said people seem to really enjoy dining at Troy's.

"The comments have been amazing about the food and the speed of service," she said.

Mr. Newton admitted the hours are long and the physical labour intense. Most days he's there from 5:30 a.m. and doesn't leave until about 7 or 8 p.m. But, he said, it's a small price to pay for living out his dream. "I always wanted a place of my own."

He added he owes a lot to family members — including his wife and two children, aged nine and 13 — and friends who've helped out in many ways from decorating to cooking.

Although this is his first time owning a restaurant, he's no stranger to the food business since he worked at the Fifth Wheel truck stop on Chisholm Drive for 22 years, eventually becoming general manager.

To any youngsters thinking they might like to own a restaurant one day, Mr. Newton offered this advice.

"Work at a chain restaurant and learn all you can. I was fortunate to learn a lot at Fifth Wheel."

Troy's Diner is located at 295 Main St. E. Additional parking is available in the lot across the street. For more information, visit www.troysdiner.com.

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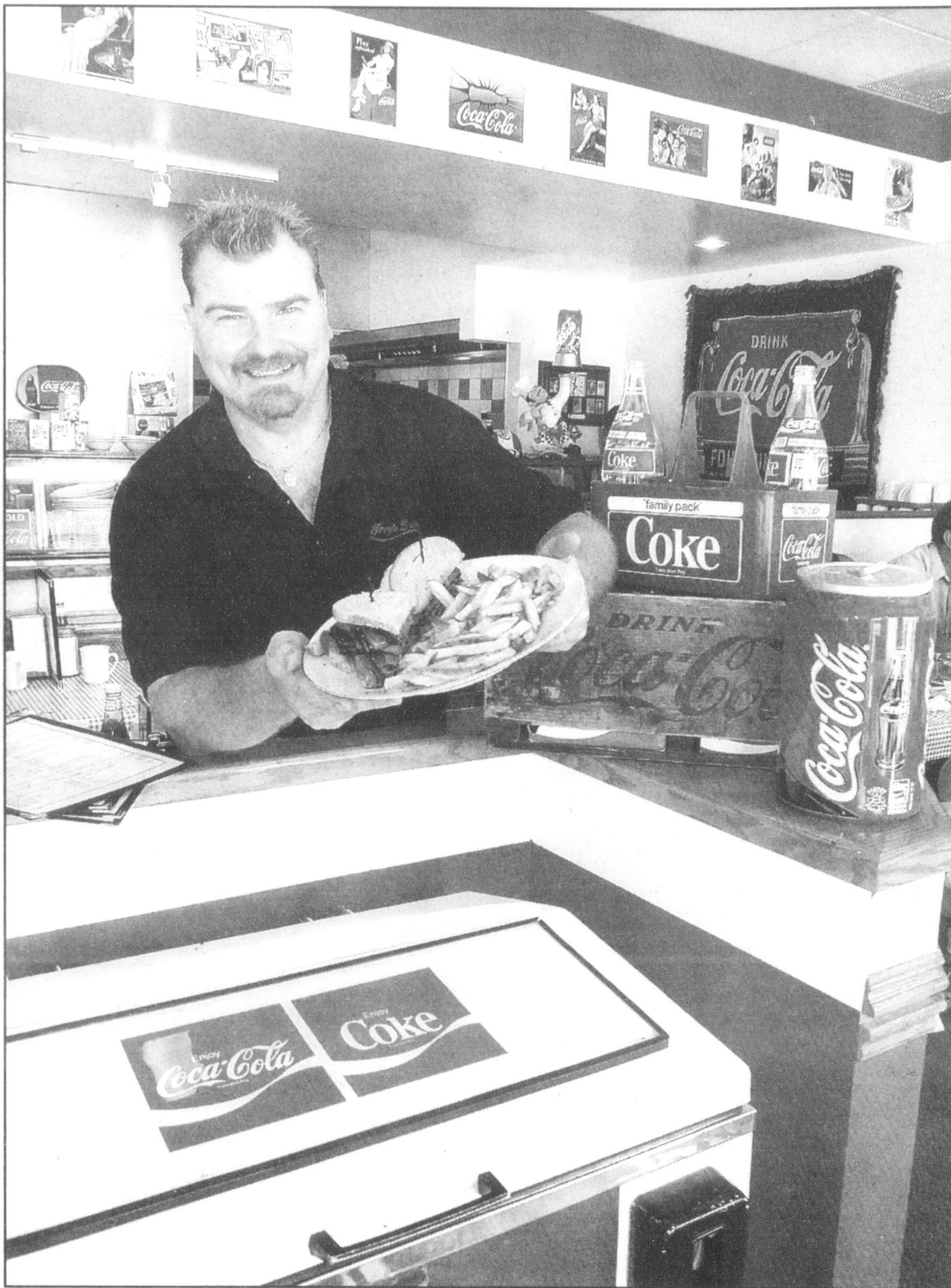


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE
Troy Newton of Troy's Diner shows a smoked meat sandwich with fries while surrounded by Coca-Cola memorabilia.



MILTON MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 37 Milton, ON L9T 2Y3

MILTON MINOR HOCKEY SELECT TRYOUTS

Milton Minor Hockey will be holding Select Tryouts beginning September 17th at the Sports Centre for the following teams:

- TYKE (born '98)**
- NOVICE (born '97)**
- ATOM (born '95 & '96)**
- PEEWEE (born '93 & '94)**
- BANTAM (born '91 & '92)**
- MIDGET (born '88, '89 & '90)**

Tryouts will be \$30.00 with a guarantee of 3 tryouts. Please show up 45 minutes prior to first tryout to register. If you have any further questions, please call 905-878-8340.

SCHEDULE

| 17 - September | | 24 - September | |
|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| 12:00 - 1:00 pm | Tyke 1 | 12:30 - 1:30 pm | Tyke 3 |
| 1:00 - 2:00 pm | Novice 1 | 1:30 - 2:30 pm | Novice 3 |
| 2:00 - 3:00 pm | Atom 1 | 2:30 - 3:30 pm | Atom 3 |
| 3:00 - 4:15 pm | PeeWee 1 | 3:30 - 4:45 pm | PeeWee 3 |
| 4:15 - 5:30 pm | Bantam 1 | 4:45 - 6:00 pm | Bantam 3 |
| 5:30 - 7:00 pm | Midget 1 | 6:00 - 7:30 pm | Midget 3 |
| 18 - September | | 25 - September | |
| 10:30 - 11:30 am | Tyke 2 | 9:00 - 10:00 am | Tyke 4 |
| 11:30 - 12:30 pm | Novice 2 | 11:00 - 12:00 pm | Novice 4 |
| 12:30 - 1:30 pm | Atom 2 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm | Atom 4 |
| 1:30 - 2:45 pm | PeeWee 2 | 5:00 - 6:00 pm | PeeWee 4 |
| 2:45 - 4:00 pm | Bantam 2 | 6:00 - 7:00 pm | Bantam 4 |
| 4:00 - 5:30 pm | Midget 2 | 8:00 - 9:30 pm | Midget 4 |

www.miltonwinterhawks.com