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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 146 NO. 63 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2005 \$1.00 (GST included) 40 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



## Take that!

Taylor Smith (right) of the Milton School of Jiu Jitsu delivers a punch to the head of Isaiah Padmore of Hamilton during their yellow belt match at Sunday's jiu jitsu tournament in Milton. Isaiah went on to win the bout. See Friday's Champion for more photos and results.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Little support for assisted suicide bill

By MELANIE CUMMINGS  
Special to The Champion

A private member's bill to legalize assisted suicide garnered little support during a public meeting organized by Halton MP Gary Carr Saturday.

Mr. Carr has a notepad full of strong opinions gleaned from the 35 people who attended the meeting at the Milton Leisure Centre.

He assured the group that their concerns would be conveyed in Ottawa where debate on the contentious subject heads into second reading.

According to Halton Pro-Life executive director Joanne Matters, "there is no such thing as an assisted suicide bill with safeguards. It is always about killing another human."

Bill C-407 rewrites two parts of the Criminal

Code in which assisted suicide is currently categorized as homicide.

The bill allows a medical practitioner or provincially-licensed health practitioner to assist people suffering with a terminal illness.

It requires that the ill person:

- express twice their free will to die more than 10 days apart to a medical practitioner or the person designated in writing to assist in the death.

- has no prospect of relief after trying appropriate treatments or refusing those that haven't been tried.

- name, in writing, before two impartial witnesses the person designated to aid in the death.

The bill also requires the person who assists in the suicide:

- to be a medical practitioner, provincially-licensed health care practitioner, or a person assist-

ed by either one.

- have confirmation of the diagnosis from two medical practitioners.

- act in a manner indicated by the person who wishes to die.

- provide the coroner with a copy of the confirmation of the diagnosis.

According to Ms Matters, there are far too many "glaring loopholes" in the bill to even consider these stipulations as safeguards.

"You can't legalize a little bit of killing for those who ask to be killed. Eventually it will include those who don't ask. History speaks for itself. This is not a civilized way for Canadians to live," said Ms Matters.

Marcel Zwolman, a paramedic who's against the bill, said more resources should be put toward pall-

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