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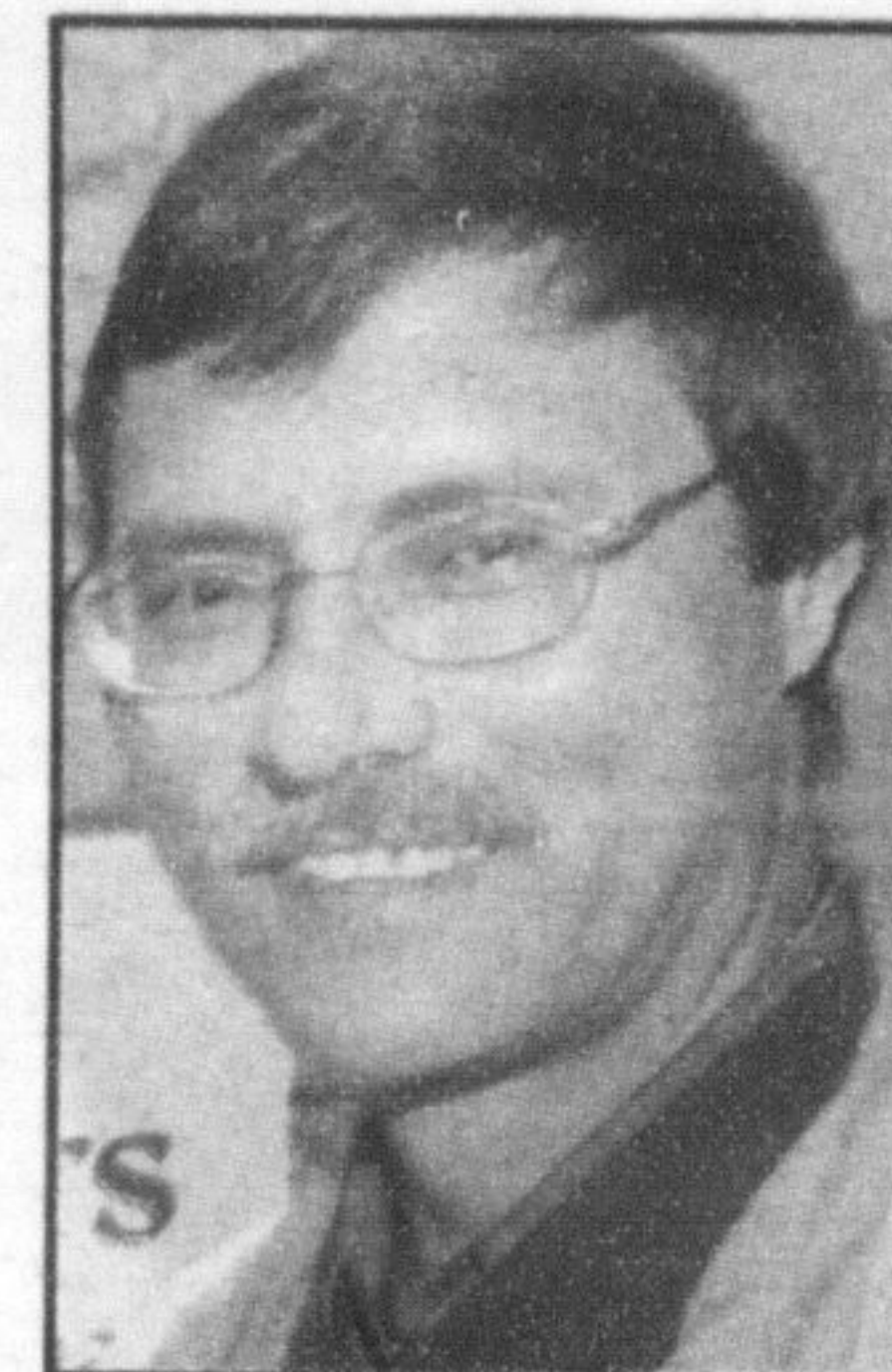
ICY WATERS: Milton firefighter Chad Barrow reacts to the frigid water as he reaches for a rescue sling being lowered to him. He was taking part in ice water rescue training at Kelso Conservation Area Saturday. See more photos on page A15.

Miltonians stand strong against fluoride: Furik

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Wards 2 and 4 Councillor Ron Furik has delivered a loud and clear message to the Region — Miltonians don't want their well-based water supply fluoridated.

The age-old issue came up at a recent Halton health and social services committee meeting, where survey results showed Milton elementary school-aged children continue to have the worst teeth in the region — something the health department is saying may be closely linked to the lack of fluoride in local water.



Ron Furik

After looking over the numbers that show, in most cases, that Milton youths have a higher prevalence of dental decay than those in other parts of Halton, Burlington Councillor Rick Craven questioned when health and well-being will override the anxieties and concerns that are out there about fluoride.

Furik stepped up to staunchly defend Milton's position on the issue.

"We're pretty passionate about our water up there (in Milton). Please leave it alone," he said.

He noted he can't recall reading more than one letter to the editor in local papers that expressed support for fluoridation.

A referendum was held in the early '70s on the issue and about 70 or 80 per cent of Milton residents turned fluoridation down.

Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal told the committee that he has recommended Milton's well water supply be fluoridated in the past, but pointed out he believes Milton residents' wishes need to be recognized.

"I'm basically saying I'm leaving it (fluoridation) as my recommendation," he said. "Let democracy take care of the rest."

About 33,000 Miltonians are on non-fluoridated well systems, while

• see MILTON on page A5

Inside Today's Champion

OPINION	6
BUSINESS	7
CHAMPION COUNTRY	15
DATELINE	20
CLASSIFIED	26

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