

# Milton to be totally smoke free at end of next month

By **Melanie Hennessey**  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The few places in Milton where smoking is still allowed indoors will have to tell customers to butt out by the end of next month.

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act is coming into effect on May 31, meaning that lighting up will be prohibited in all enclosed public and work places.

"It provides consistency across all of Ontario," explained Halton Environmental Health Manager Tony Amalfa. "I think it's a positive step to make all the bars and restaurants smoke free."

Town Clerk Troy McHarg echoed Amalfa's sentiments.

"It (the act) will eliminate claims of unfair competition," he noted.

While most local businesses are already smoke-free, there are a few places, like the Hardball

Café, that still have designated smoking rooms or areas — something the Town's smoking bylaw permitted.

In speaking with The Champion, Hardball owner Carlo Giangrande expressed confidence that his customer base will remain strong with or without indoor smoking.

He said while the act may affect business levels at first, when people are getting accustomed to not being able to smoke in public places, he feels "people will come back."

"I think the act is finally putting everybody at a level playing field," he noted. "I think it's going to be great. It's fair for everyone now."

Meanwhile, those in charge at the Mohawk Racetrack are also positive the act will have little affect on their business.

"I don't anticipate, in terms of horse racing for us, for it (the act) to have a huge impact," said Jane Holmes, vice-president of

corporate affairs for Woodbine Entertainment Group, which oversees operations at Mohawk.

She noted that Woodbine is in the process of reviewing the new regulations to determine where it can allow its employees and customers to smoke, such as an appropriate outdoor smoking area.

The legislation, which combines the Tobacco Control Act and Smoking in the Workplace Act, also makes it mandatory for tobacco retailers to ask for ID from anyone who looks under 25, as opposed to 19.

"Operators must show due diligence as far as training staff (to ask for ID)," said Amalfa. "They have an accountability for their staff obeying the law."

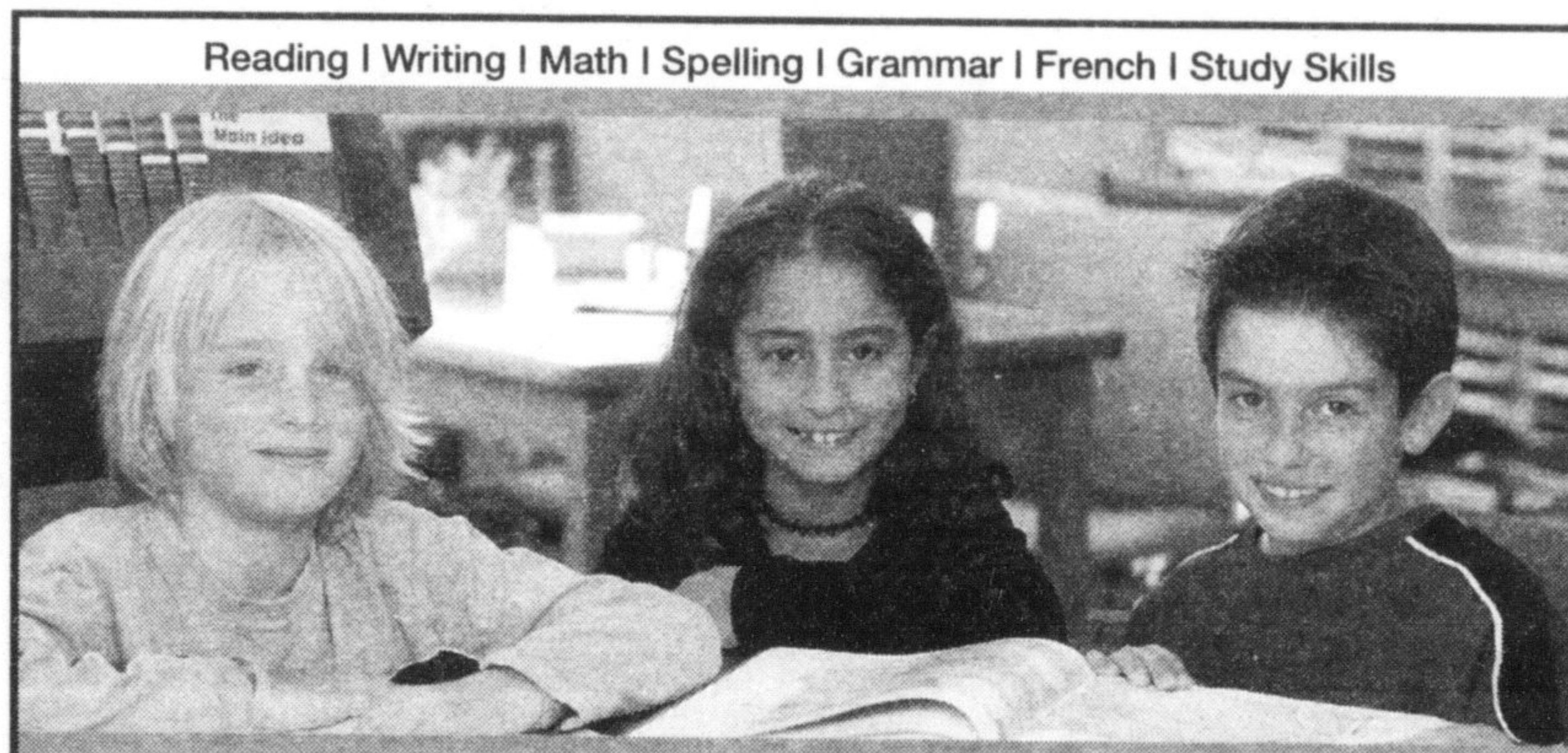
A section of the act that bans large tobacco displays, commonly known as power walls, will come into effect in 2008.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at [mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com](mailto:mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com).

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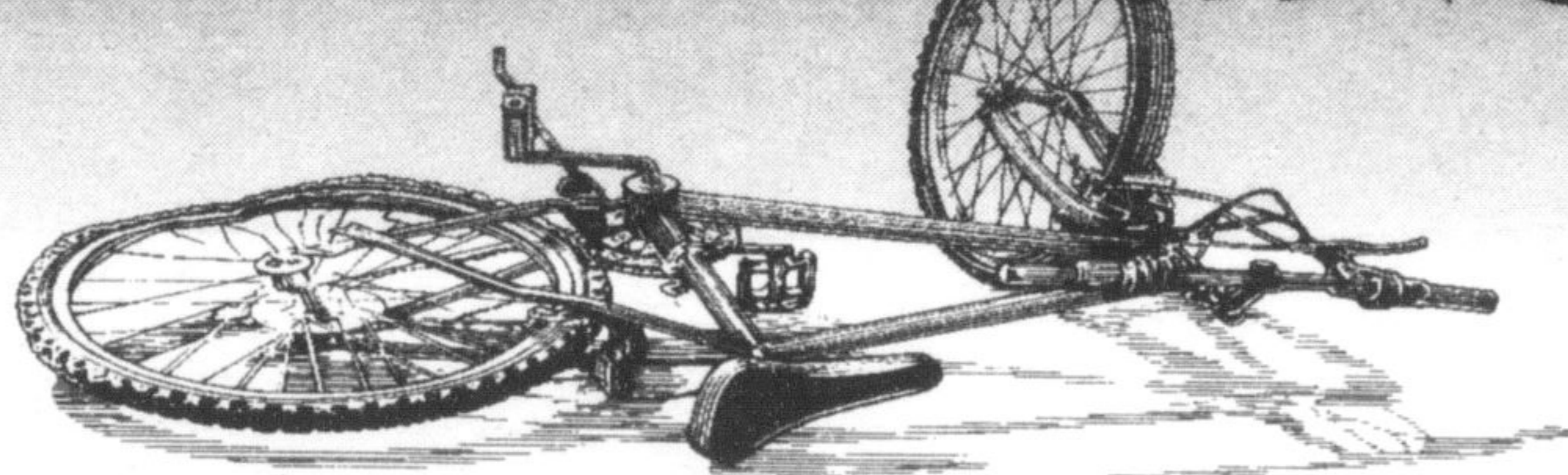
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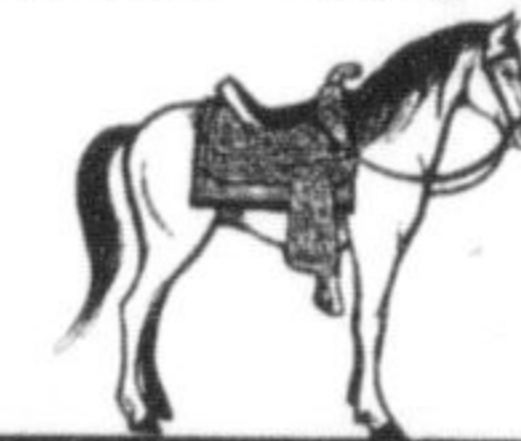
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