

# The Canadian Champion

Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

Weekend Edition

**APPLE AutoGlass**  
 Auto Accessories  
 Upholstery Repairs  
 Windshield Repairs  
 781 MAIN ST. #1 & 2,  
 MILTON 876-4785

NEWS  
**Man found guilty  
 in tree-cutting case**

SPORTS  
**Jr. B lacrosse  
 returns to Milton**

A & E  
**Juno-winning  
 Blues artist here**

**KAREN'S FLOWER SHOP**  
 487 Laurier Ave. 878-2881  
 www.karensflowershop.com

A Metroland Publication • Vol. 147 No. 12

Friday, April 21, 2006

56 Pages • \$1.00 (incl. G.S.T.)

## Cemetery vandals mar children's gravesites



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**LOOKING FOR CLUES:** Halton Regional Police Const. Melissa Parsons collects possible evidence to help track down the Evergreen Cemetery vandals.

By **Stephanie Thiessen**  
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A smashed statue, shattered lamps and general disarray is the recent handiwork of vandals at Milton Evergreen Cemetery.

Twice in a span of three days this week, the Ontario Street resting place has suffered damage, said cemetery secretary-treasurer Jim Strain.

And he has a message for the guilty parties.

"Think about what you're doing. Suppose this was your mother, brother or father," he urged.

Much of the damage was to children's gravesites, which makes the damage seem all the more unthinkable, he said.

"To have kids come and vandalize other kids' graves is beyond me."

The problems started sometime before Saturday afternoon, when about a dozen solar lamps were discovered smashed, targeted by air guns, Strain said.

Then, Tuesday morning, he noticed vandals had taken a statue and smashed an additional dozen or so lamps and bent some shepherds' rods from which lamps and flower arrangements hang, Strain said.

"They not only smashed the stuff, they threw it all over the hill," he said.

The total value of the damage is about \$500.

Strain said the last incident of vandalism to this extent was six or seven years ago.

"You always get people stealing things (from the sites), but typically vandalism isn't prevalent in Milton," he said.

The area along Sixteen Mile Creek, which runs along the west side of the cemetery, has long since attracted questionable behaviour, Strain said, adding he's found a lot of drug paraphernalia in the area.

Det. Sgt. Peter Hodgson of Halton Regional Police said he wasn't aware of a drug issue in this specific area, but added it's common with any park or

cemetery for alcohol or drugs to sometimes be consumed.

He confirmed that although vandalism has occasionally occurred at Evergreen Cemetery, it hasn't been to this magnitude, and said officers will be keeping a close eye on the area.

There's a good chance police will find the culprits, he said, because residents are outraged by this sort of crime and usually come forward.

"We usually get a good response from the community and hope that'll be the case here," he said.

The cemetery board has been working hard in recent years to discourage vandals. Two years ago, a fence was installed from the creek to Ontario St. South in an effort to separate people hanging out in the area from people visiting their loved ones' graves, Strain said.

The fence is eight feet high, topped with barbed wire. But vandals have cut large holes into the fence twice, he said.

Other security options have been explored by the board, like a surround-

• see POLICE on page A15

### Inside Today's Champion

OPINION	A6
CLASSIFIED	A25
DATELINE	B6
REAL ESTATE	B9

www.haltonsearch.com

MILTON TOYOTA  
 www.milontoyota.com

GORRUD'S  
**AUTO**  
 GROUP  
 www.gorrudsautogroup.com

National Car Rental.

**TECH-NET Professional AUTO SERVICE**

## BOB'S AUTO SERVICE

For all of your Emissions Testing & Car Repair Needs

It's never too early to have your car inspected for spring!



**ONTARIO'S DRIVE CLEAN**  
 For the air we breathe

Stop in and let our trained technicians treat you to super service at prices that won't leave you cold!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL **878-7926** OR DROP IN AT 18 COMMERCIAL ST.