

Marsha

# The Canadian Champion

Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

**The Jack Van Group**  
Get us working for you!  
**Jack VanderBreggen**  
Sales Representative  
905-878-8101

**ROYAL LEPAGE**  
Masterpiece Realty  
Milton, Ontario

REAL ESTATE  
**See what's on the market inside**

SPORTS  
**Teague belts way to Canadian title**

COMMUNITY  
**Teams get ready to walk for a cure**

For all your jewellery needs...  
**10K, 14K & 18K Gold, Diamonds & Gems!**  
Repairs Also Available.

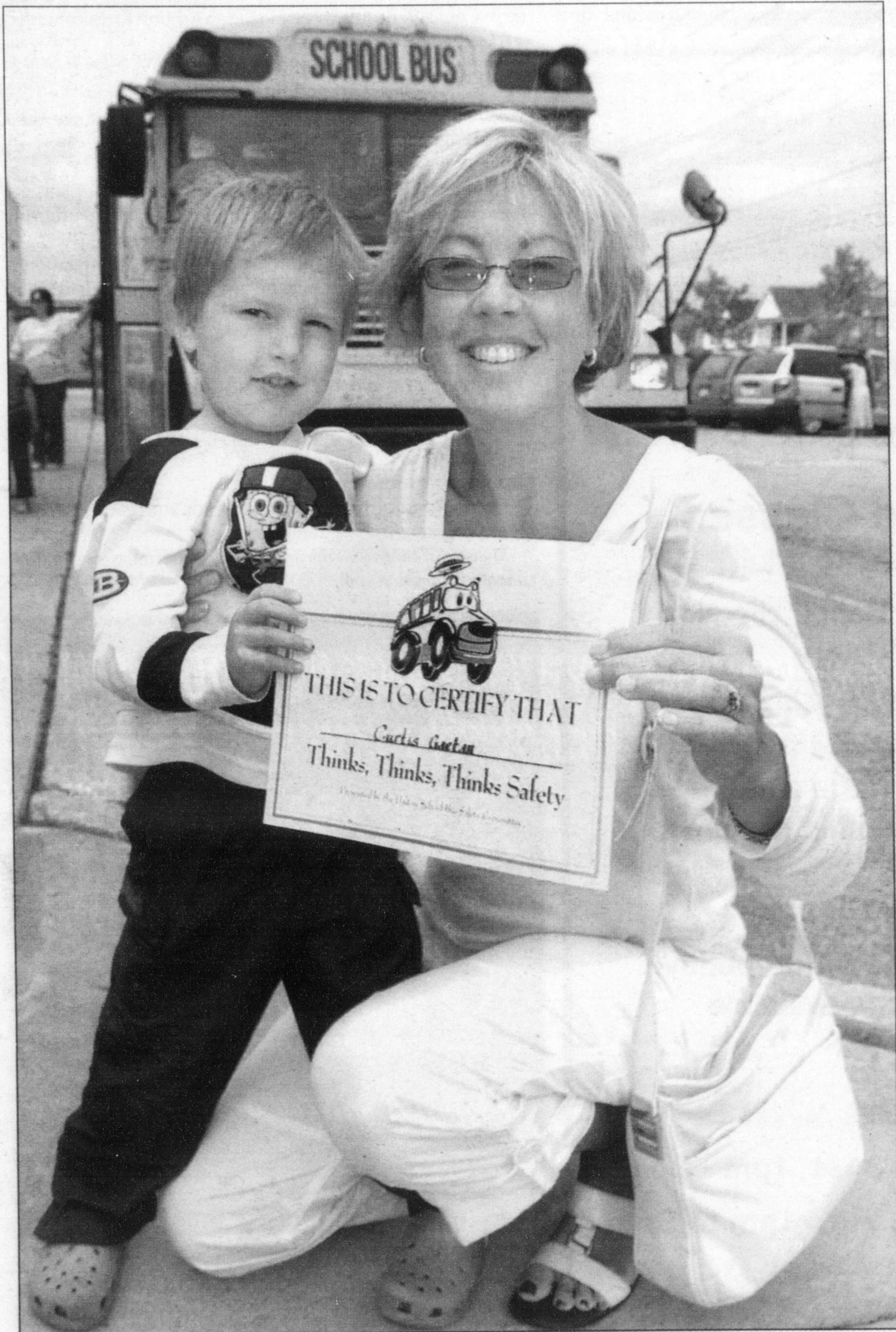
**HARON HILL Fine Jewellery**  
218 Main St. E. Milton  
905-875-2999

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

A Metroland Publication • Vol. 147 No. 49

Tuesday, August 29, 2006

68 Pages • \$1.00 (incl. G.S.T.)



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**READY FOR SCHOOL:** Three-year-old Curtis Gaetan and mom Tracy proudly show their school bus safety certificate from Saturday's annual School Bus Orientation Day at Bishop Reding Secondary School. Curtis will be off to school — junior kindergarten — for the first time next Tuesday.

## Thief steals the few belongings man had left after house fire

By **Stephanie Thiessen**  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Just one month after 22-year-old Matthew Grant narrowly escaped death in an early morning blaze, he awoke to a second nightmare.

Friday morning, he discovered what few belongings he had been able to salvage from the fire had been stolen in an overnight car theft.

"Whatever little possessions I had left, they're stolen. Now I have nothing," an emotional Grant told The Champion Friday. "I went from almost not waking up three weeks ago (in the fire) to this."

He explained he has been living in and out of a rental car between stays with relatives and friends after a fire gutted his parents' White Drive home and he was rescued in the nick of time from the basement where he was sleeping.

### Clothing taken

He kept what few items he still had — including a backpack carrying all his clothes — in the rental vehicle, which was parked outside his cousin's house on Morley Avenue when the theft occurred. His own Jeep was destroyed in the fire.

Grant said he thought he had locked the car door, but apparently hadn't.

Besides his knapsack, his wallet, a CD case with CDs, an MP3 player and custom skateboard worth \$250 were stolen.

But Grant knows all that can be replaced. What cuts deep is the knowledge that precious memories were also stolen — letters from his girlfriend and photographs he had tucked into his CD case.

"All I want back are the pictures and letters. I don't care about the other

stuff," he said.

Grant is pleading with the thieves to return the property, no questions asked. It can be dropped off at 892 Morley Ave.

"If you can find it in yourselves to please return my stuff... It's the only stuff I have left after the tragedy," he said.

Grant has been staying with his parents for the summer, home from Lakehead University where he's studying environmental sciences.

The day of the fire, July 27, Grant said he awoke at about 4:30 a.m. and, since he couldn't see the billowing smoke because it was dark, thought he was having an asthma attack.

His first thought was to go outside for some fresh air, he said.

• see HOUSE on page A25

## Inside Today's Champion

OPINION	A6
BUSINESS	A7
CHAMPION COUNTRY	A9
DATELINE	A10
CLASSIFIED	A19

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

**MILTON TOYOTA**  
www.miltontoyota.com

**GORRUD'S AUTO GROUP**

www.gorrudsautogroup.com

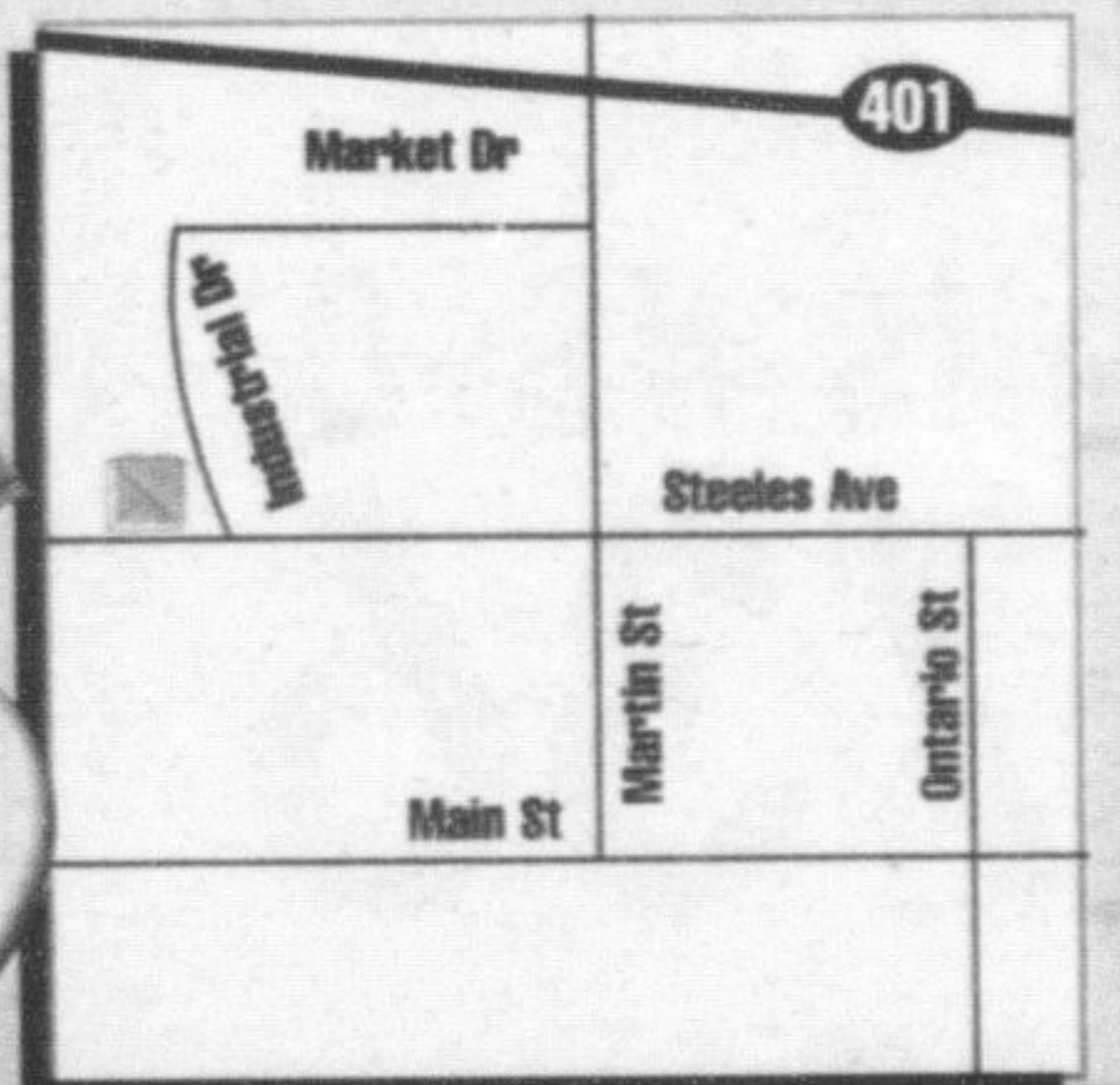
**National Car Rental**

**SCOTT'S**  
Car Care & Rust Check Centre

- Automotive Detailing
- Window Tinting
- Accessories

Come Check Us Out At Our Brand New Location!

410 Industrial Drive, Milton • 905-875-9997



**Taylor Nursery**

- FLOWERS & BASKETS
- SHRUBS & TREES
- SOILS, MULCH & AGGREGATES
- GARDEN DECOR & COLLECTIBLES

Right at the east end of Main St.  
7429 Fifth Line, Milton 905-876-4100

Your Town and Country Gardening Centre