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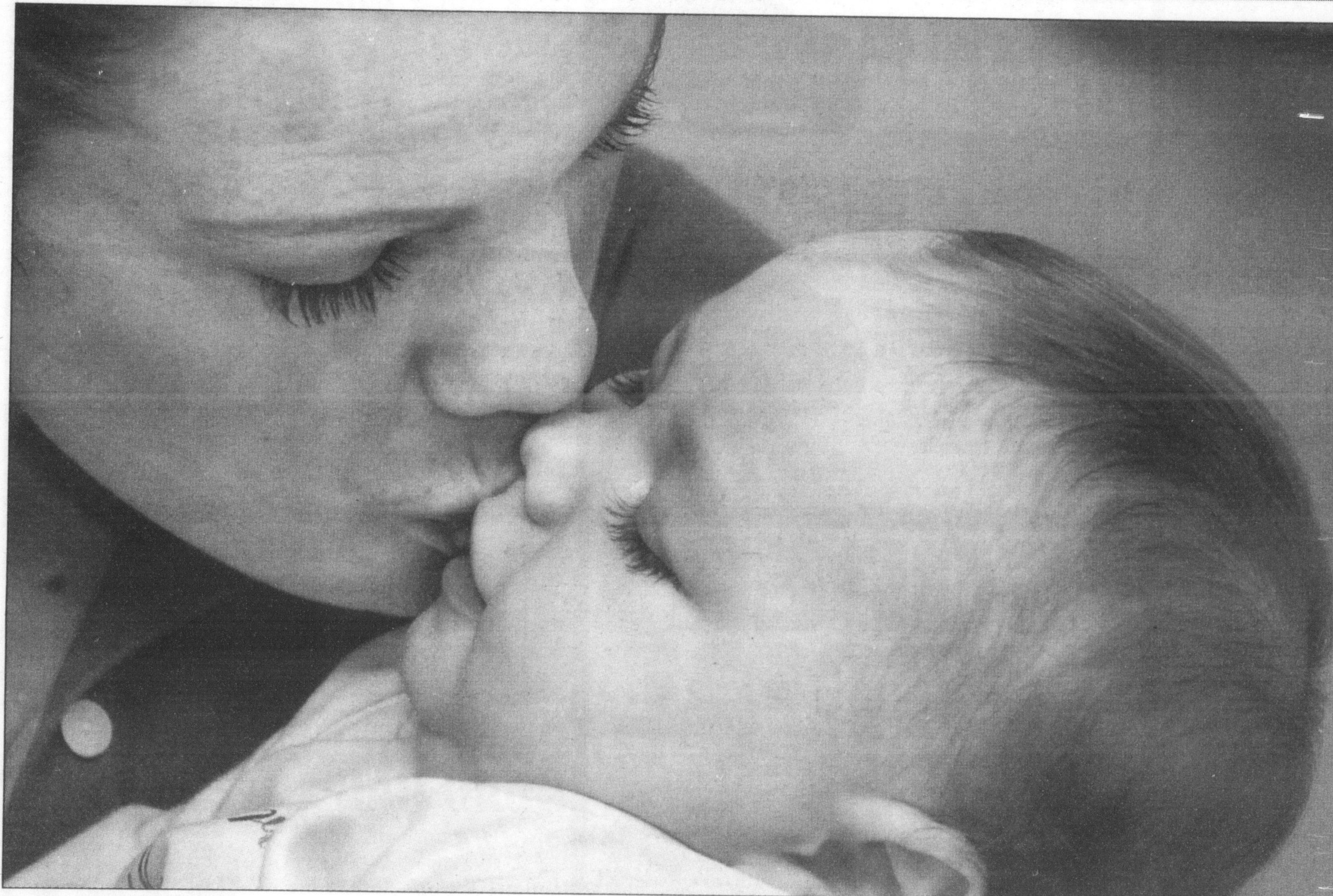
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TENDER LOVING CARE: Nine-month-old Holly Taylor gets a kiss from mom Courtney McLauchlan. Holly traveled last month with her parents to Calgary where she was diagnosed with schizencephaly, a rare birth defect where one-quarter of her brain is missing. A trust fund was recently set up at CIBC to help the young Milton family with the crippling expenses related to Holly's illness. See story page A8.

Public school trustees getting big raise

By Tim Whitnell
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Halton public board trustees voted themselves \$10,000 in retroactive pay — money that will come from the school board's budget — while also giving the okay to more than doubling the stipend for the next set of trustees.

When the board convened a special meeting before Wednesday's regular session, only Oakville trustee Mary Chapin, who's not seeking re-election in the November 13 municipal

election, voted against the retroactive component of trustee pay.

"I cannot in good conscience okay retroactive pay for the members of this board," Chapin said, adding trustees had wasted about \$1 million on "buyouts and legal fees" — money spent in 2005 during the controversial contract severance given to former education director Dusty Papke.

Thursday, Chapin told The Champion she was heading to the board office to sign over her retroactive paycheque of \$8,780 (\$7,760 net) to the Halton Learning Foundation, a fundraising arm of the board.

"I do not begrudge this catch-up for trustees who have been responsible to the public education system and responsive to the families of Halton, but on this board are a number of trustees (a simple majority) who have, in pursuit of their personal goals, made decisions that unnecessarily cost the system approximately \$1 million."

Board Chair Paul Tate defended voting in favour of the retroactivity stating trustees had "stood up to their responsibilities" in handling a variety of difficult issues over the last term. "We earned this money in spades," he said.

• see TRUSTEE on page A5

Miltonian injured in crash

A 33-year-old Milton resident was sent to hospital with life-threatening injuries Thursday after the motorist's vehicle hit the guardrail and rolled over on Hwy. 407 near Milton.

The OPP responded to a report of a single vehicle collision in the west-bound lanes, just west of the Hwy. 401 split, at about 6 p.m.

The driver was air-lifted to Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital.

The highway was closed in both directions for about a half-hour to accommodate the air ambulance. After that, just the slow lane of the west-bound 407 remained closed until about 11 p.m. while officers investigated.

At holiday press time Friday afternoon, there was no update on the victim's condition.

Any witnesses with information are urged to call OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

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