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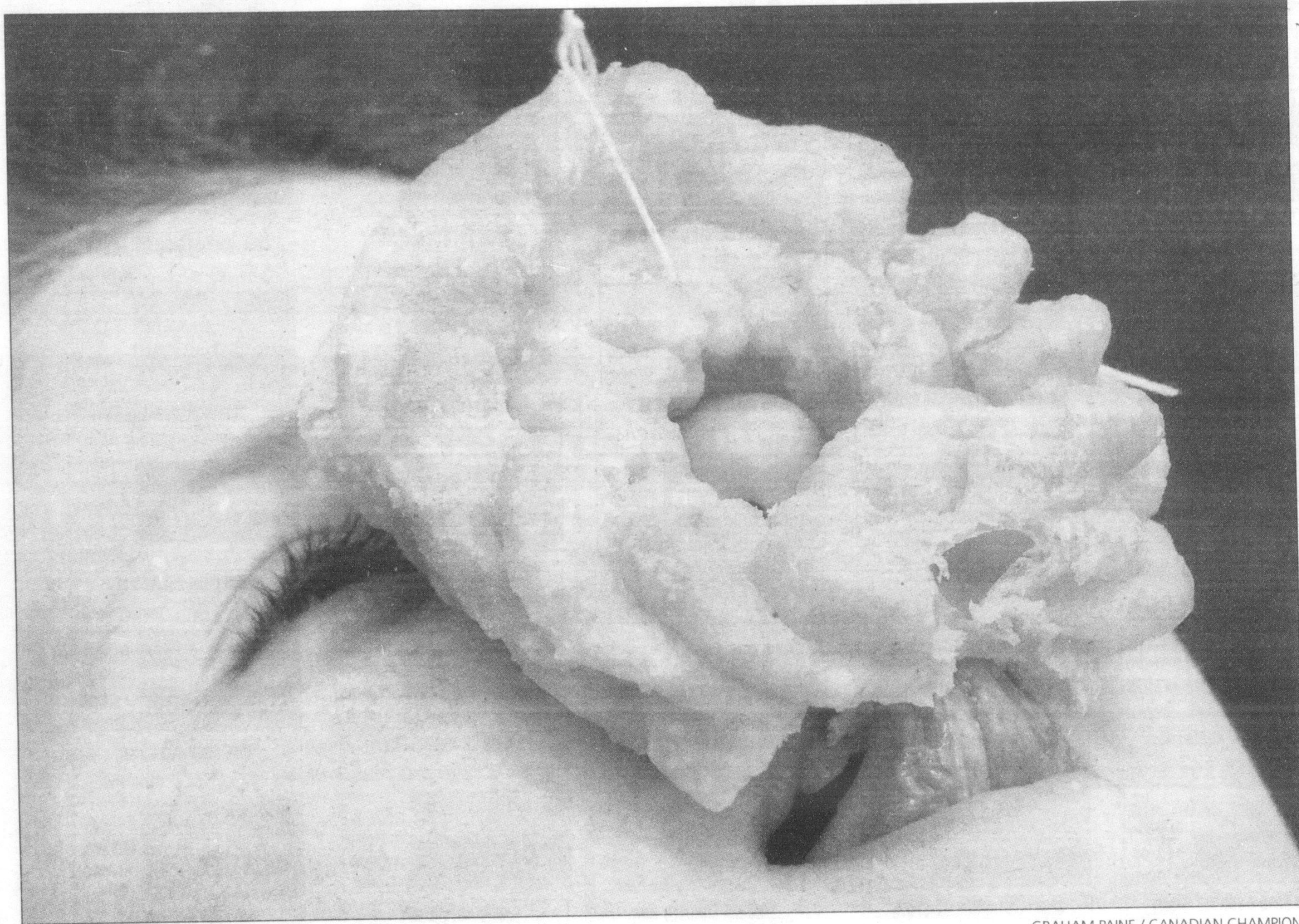
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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

NOSE FOR CRULLERS: Emily Adams, 9, competes in a donut-eating contest and snags a cruller on the nose during Sam Sherratt School's annual 'Bloomin' BBQ' fundraiser Saturday. The event also featured a dunk tank and face painting.

Pit bull that bit boy spared death

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A local pit bull was spared death, but will spend the rest of his days under house arrest following a biting incident involving an eight-year-old boy almost two years ago.

"The dog is getting a reprieve," Justice of the Peace L. Mills told the court late Monday afternoon, rejecting a destruction order.

The decision — delivered at Ontario

Provincial Offences Court in Milton — put an end to a case that's been before the court for more than a year.

Loco the pit bull will be confined to his owner's property and must be muzzled any time he's exposed to the public in large, including in his front yard.

He can't leave the house except to go to the vet or for training, and he can't be left alone with children. Any time children are inside the home, Loco must be muzzled.

"I know this might sound onerous, but you know what the alternative is," Mills told Jackeline Perez, Loco's owner.

Perez didn't seem to mind, though, and happily hugged her mother after the decision was delivered.

Throughout the proceedings, Perez maintained that Loco isn't aggressive, as the prosecution had argued, and that he's a member of the family that holds a special spot in her heart because he belonged to her late fiancé.

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Police seek fire starters

Investigators are seeking the public's assistance in identifying those responsible for two fires Monday evening.

The Mac's Convenience Store plaza at Wilson Street and Woodward Avenue sustained about \$8,000 damage during the first incident, which police and fire-fighters responded to at 7:40 p.m.

The blaze was quickly extinguished, and the investigation determined that some garbage from an adjacent dumpster had been placed under the convenience store's air conditioning unit and set on fire.

Along with the A/C unit, hydro lines and the hydro meter were considerably damaged.

Witnesses report seeing five youths at the north end of the plaza just prior to the fire. All are believed as being 14 or 15 years of age. One of them is described as being five-foot-six-inch with a chubby build, and wearing a baseball cap, grey t-shirt, shorts and

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