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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**A HELPING HAND:** Halton Regional Police auxiliary officer Calvin Armstrong assists fallen racer Jordan Crandall during the Subaru Triathlon Series Sunday at Kelso Conservation Area. The triathlete collided with another racer while exiting Kelso for the road portion of the race. Despite some cuts and scrapes, he managed to get back on his bike and continue. About 1,000 triathletes and duathlon participants raced in the event. See another photo in Sports.

## Former school board chair dies of cancer

By Lisa Tallyn  
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION



**Ethel Gardiner**

Former Halton District School Board (HDSB) chair and Halton Hills Trustee Ethel Gardiner lost her battle with cancer Tuesday.

Gardiner died at her Georgetown home with her husband Peter by her side. She was 69.

Peter said his wife of 50 years "fought really, really hard," since she was diagnosed with lung cancer last September.

After learning of her illness, Gardiner made the difficult decision not to run for a fifth term as trustee — a job that Peter said she loved and

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## Halton hockey coach faces sex charges

By Tim Whitnell  
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

A Halton hockey coach faces multiple charges going back more than a quarter century after two former Burlington players came forward to police last month with allegations of sexual misconduct.

Detectives with Halton Regional Police's Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Unit (CASA) received a complaint from two men in May that prompted them to investigate a former family friend.

The men told police they were victims of a series of assaults committed by their former coach while they were in his care. The charges arise from incidents that allegedly occurred between 1978 and 1981.

Halton detectives say it appears the suspect lived at various homes with host families in Burlington and Milton from 1978 until he moved to Hamilton last month.

Police believe the suspect was also involved in youth soccer and youth bowling.

Police spokesman Sgt. Peter Payne said the ages of the alleged victims at the time of the

incidents are not being provided because it might identify them.

He said the men now live outside Burlington but both have family in the city.

Payne said the sex assaults are believed to have occurred in one-on-one situations when the men were boys.

"Investigators have spoken to individuals at the Burlington Lions Optimist Minor Hockey Association (BLOMHA). The BLOMHA representatives were very helpful," said Payne.

Charged is John Phillip Russell, 48, of

• see SUSPECT on page A17

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