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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

TAKING A STAND: Hailey Whitnell-Lee, 7, (centre) prepares to take a big bite out of a chocolate brownie, one of many treats she and her friends Samantha DaCosta (left), 14, and her sister Sarah, 9, sold along with lemonade as a fundraiser for Halton Women's Place. The three are children of employees at Pennington's at the Crossroads Centre where the lemonade stand was set up.

Watering ban in effect

The Region has upgraded its outdoor water use restriction from voluntary to a mandatory Halton-wide ban.

Residents are to refrain from watering their lawns and washing their cars and driveways. Flower and vegetable gardens are to be watered by hand and only as needed. Recently-laid sod is exempt from the restrictions.

The temporary ban was deemed necessary to ensure an adequate supply of water remains in the Region's reservoirs for fire protection and essential household needs.

"It's important that residents comply with these temporary measures to ensure that we have enough water for essential services," said Regional Chair Gary Carr.

The ban is expected to remain in place until the weather changes. Halton's planning and public works staff will advise residents through the media and its website, www.halton.ca, once the restriction has been lifted.

Area health care among the best: report

By **Melanie Hennessey**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The local health-care system is working better than many other areas in Ontario and even Canada, according to a recent study.

The document, entitled Health Indicators 2007, was prepared by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) and Statistics Canada to take a closer look at the performance of the health-care system and the well-being of those who use it.

At the local level, it zeros in on the area encompassed by the Mississauga Halton Local

Health Integration Network — Milton, Halton Hills, Oakville, Mississauga and south Etobicoke.

In this Mississauga-Halton region, the report says that fewer people under the age of 75 with conditions like diabetes and asthma ended up being hospitalized in 2005-06 — only 267 out of every 100,000 people.

This is much lower than the national average of 389 per 100,000 people.

"There are many factors that work together to have this substantial outcome," said Eugene Wen, manager of health indicators for CIHI. "It's a success of the whole community."

He explained that a synergy between family physicians, public health, the patient, his or her family members and the local health-care system can provide appropriate ambulatory — or outpatient — care, thus reducing the need for hospitalization.

Mississauga-Halton also fared well when it comes to wait times for hip fracture surgery.

According to the study, 80.5 per cent of residents 65 and older who were admitted to the hospital in 2005-06 with a hip fracture underwent surgery either on the day they arrived or the day after. The figure is 15 per cent higher

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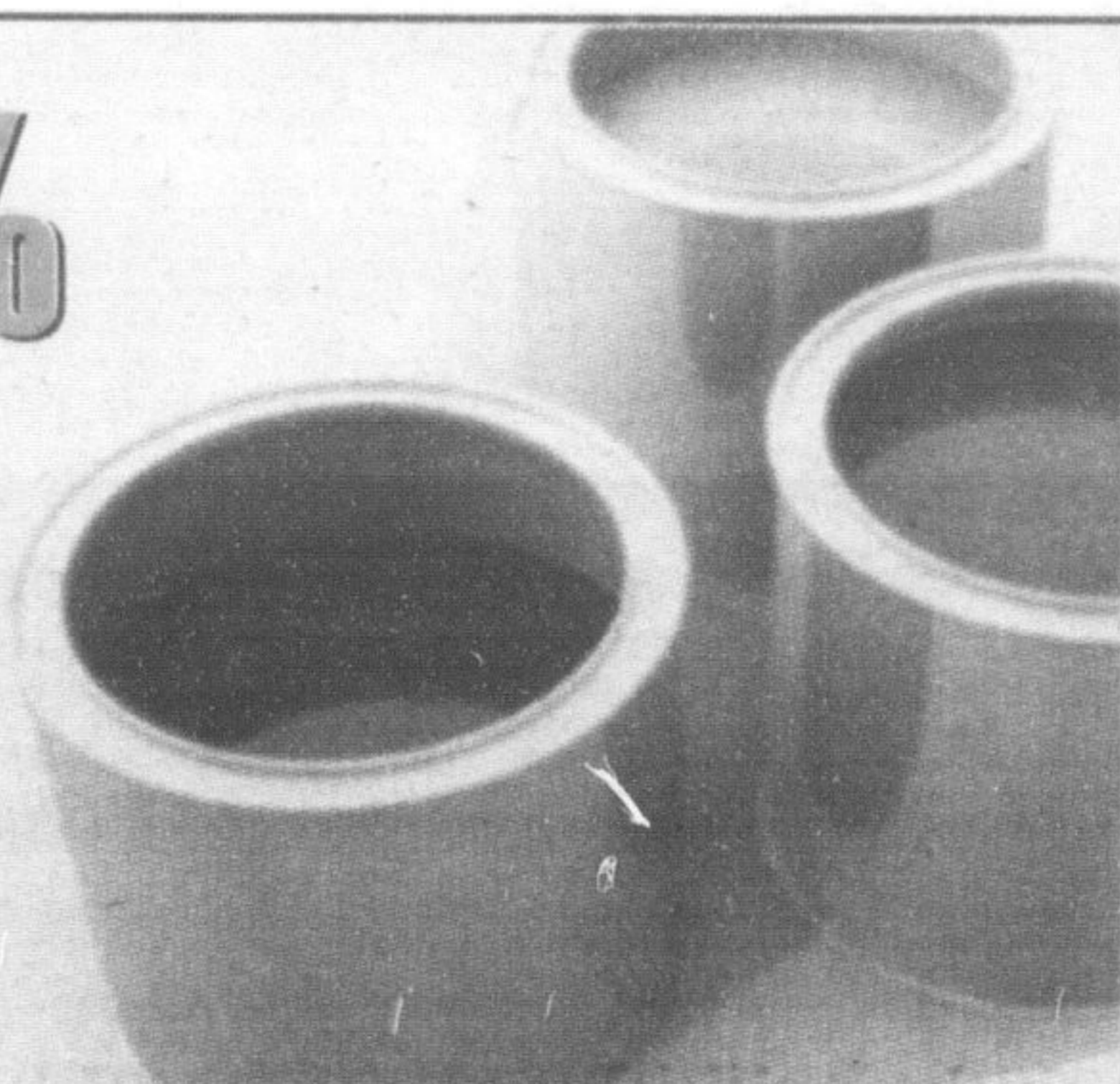
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