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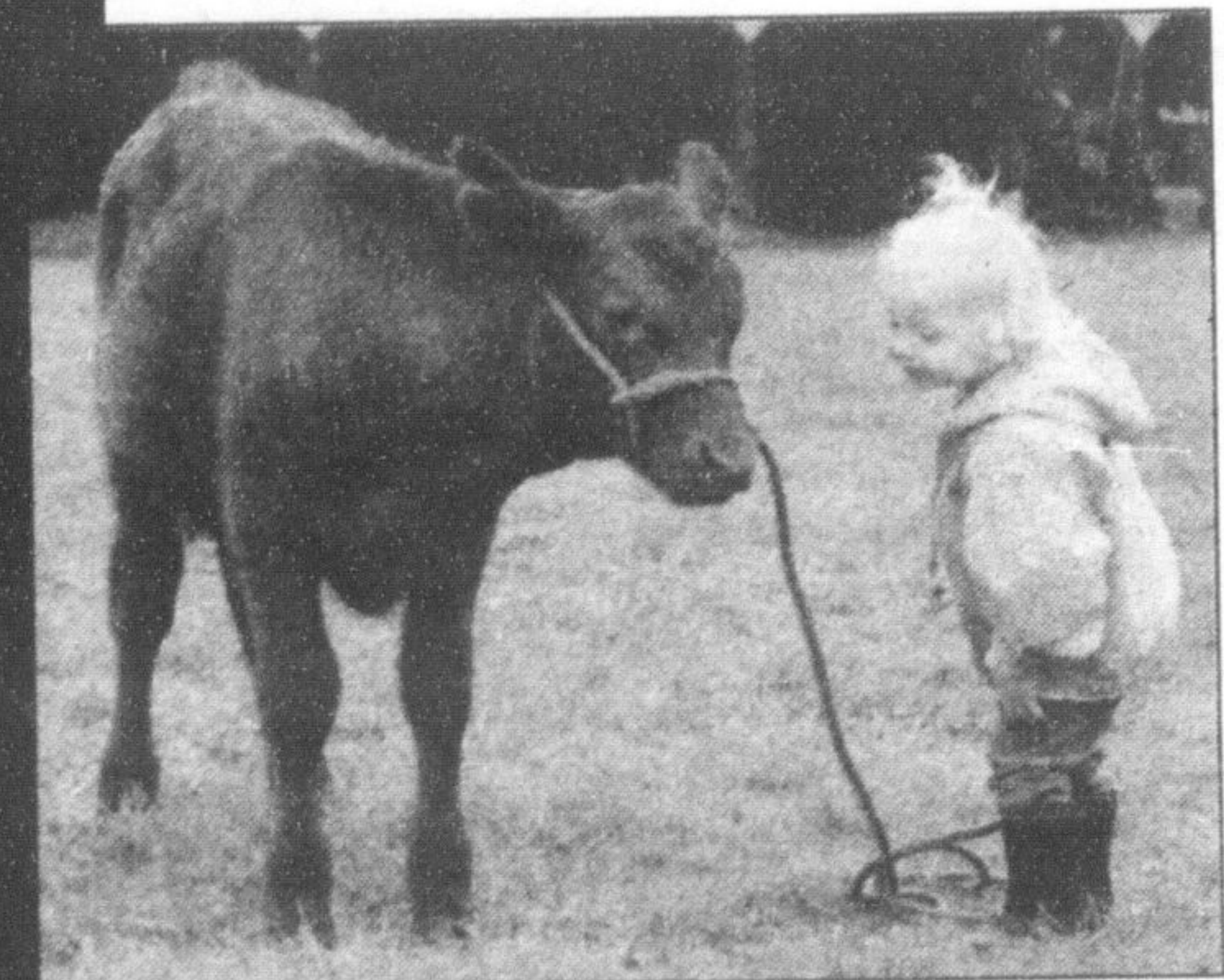
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A Metroland Media Group Publication • Vol. 149 No. 59

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

40 Pages • \$1.00 (incl. G.S.T.)



FUN AT THE FAIR: The 155th annual Milton Fall Fair had a soggy start Saturday morning, but it didn't deter many. At left, Elly Jones, 5, tries to coax her 18-month-old calf, Tristan, into the ring for the junior showmanship class in the 4-H cattle competition. Elly is the granddaughter of Bob Merry of Merrybrook Farm in Milton. Inset, her sister, Hilary Jones, 3, talks to her four-month-old calf Rusty. See more fall fair coverage on page A8.

GRAHAM PAINE /
CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Hospital petition now in Legislature

Thousands sign petition pushing for hospital expansion

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh has taken local residents' concerns regarding the much-needed Milton District Hospital (MDH) expansion to the Ontario Legislature.

At Queen's Park Thursday, the local politician presented petitions bearing thousands of signatures from Halton citizens who are calling for the immediate expansion of MDH and completion of Trafalgar Memorial in Oakville.

Chudleigh also brought the issue up during Question Period and in a member's statement. He told Minister of Health David Caplan

that the Province's Places to Grow plan — which projects that Halton's population will double over the next 25 years — is "dangerously incomplete."

"As the population skyrockets, the hospitals are overloaded, their staff overworked," he said.

"Why then has construction of the new hospital in Oakville been delayed? Why has the expansion in Milton not yet begun?"

Chudleigh pushed for specifics and asked for a date when construction would com-

mence, but no answer was given.

He went on to read the petitions from local residents into the record.

"If the government wants us to grow so rapidly, they have to go all the way," said Chudleigh.

"It is in the control of the minister of health, the minister of infrastructure and the premier. They tell us it's a capacity problem. The problem, however, is that Halton is at the bottom of the list. The people of Halton deserve better."

Petitions can still be downloaded and signed at www.tedchudleigh.com.

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