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A Metroland Media Group publication • Vol. 149 No. 93

Friday, January 30, 2009

52 Pages • \$1.00 (incl. G.S.T.)

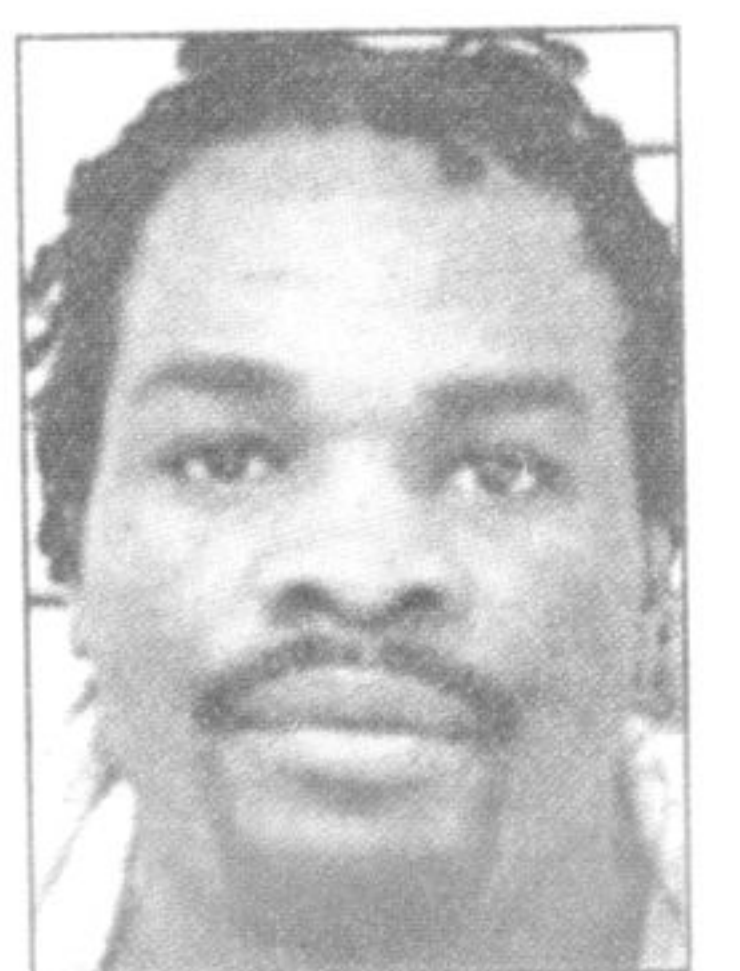


GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

SNOW DAY: At left, Sarah Williams (left) and friend Samantha Budge, both 9, have fun making 'Magic Bloxx' crafts during Wednesday's snow day — with all three school boards closing area schools.

Police seek man in GTA

Halton police are trying to locate a man who was mistakenly released from Maplehurst Correctional Centre yesterday morning.



Tyshan Herman Campbell, 25, was being held pending court proceedings for drug and weapons charges. Police now believe he's in the GTA.

Campbell is a black male, five-foot-10 and 148 pounds with brown eyes and black hair. He was last seen wearing a black waist-length parka with red, yellow and green striping on the collar and cuffs, a green New York Jets jersey, black track pants, black Nike shoes and a black tuque.

Police caution the public not to approach the man, who they consider dangerous. Call 911 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Hydro bills shock some residents

Eighty-three residents see hikes due to load transfer

By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

When Vera Kells opened her mail recently, she wasn't prepared for the information facing her on the page — an estimated \$250 monthly increase on her hydro bill.

Anger was how she felt upon reading the letter, said Kells, who along with her husband runs Wildhagen's Greenhouses on Milborough Town Line on Milton's western boundary. "Those kinds of things are kind of unforeseen...it's shocking."

Kells was one of 83 Milton residents living along the town's boundary lines who received similar letters, though many with lower dollar impacts.

At issue is a proposed transfer of these residents to become customers of Hydro One, rather than Milton Hydro from whom they now receive service.

The two utilities are working out what's termed a load transfer, as mandated by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). Essentially, the 83 Miltonians have been paying their bills to Milton Hydro but physically receiving service from Hydro One. Ironically, the proposed transfer involves 59 Hydro One customers in Flamborough and Puslinch going the other way to Milton Hydro.

The OEB has required the elimination of such load transfer agreements by the end of this month. Milton Hydro also has to work out separate agreements with the hydro utilities

serving Burlington, Oakville, Halton Hills and Mississauga, though the switch won't be as traumatic to affected residents because rates between the municipalities are generally similar, according to a local councillor.

"The difference here is Hydro (One) rates are much higher," explained Milton regional councillor Barry Lee, who also sits on the Milton Hydro board.

Increases range from 14 to a whopping 115 per cent of the total bill, said Lee. The average increase is 23 per cent.

"The load transfer, there is some sense to it," said Lee. "(But) when it's a case like this, where the rates are different, dramatically so, then the customer takes it in the ear."

At Milton council's Monday meeting, Lee presented a resolution, unanimously endorsed by his colleagues, to petition the OEB to allow

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