



HALTON HILLS WILDCATS / GEORGETOWN CRIMSON TIDE

## 2009 REGISTRATION

**February 14th and 15th**  
**Milton Mall**  
 During Mall hours.

**House League: (10-12 yrs) - \$310**

**Rep (13-17 yrs) PeeWee / JV: \$375\***

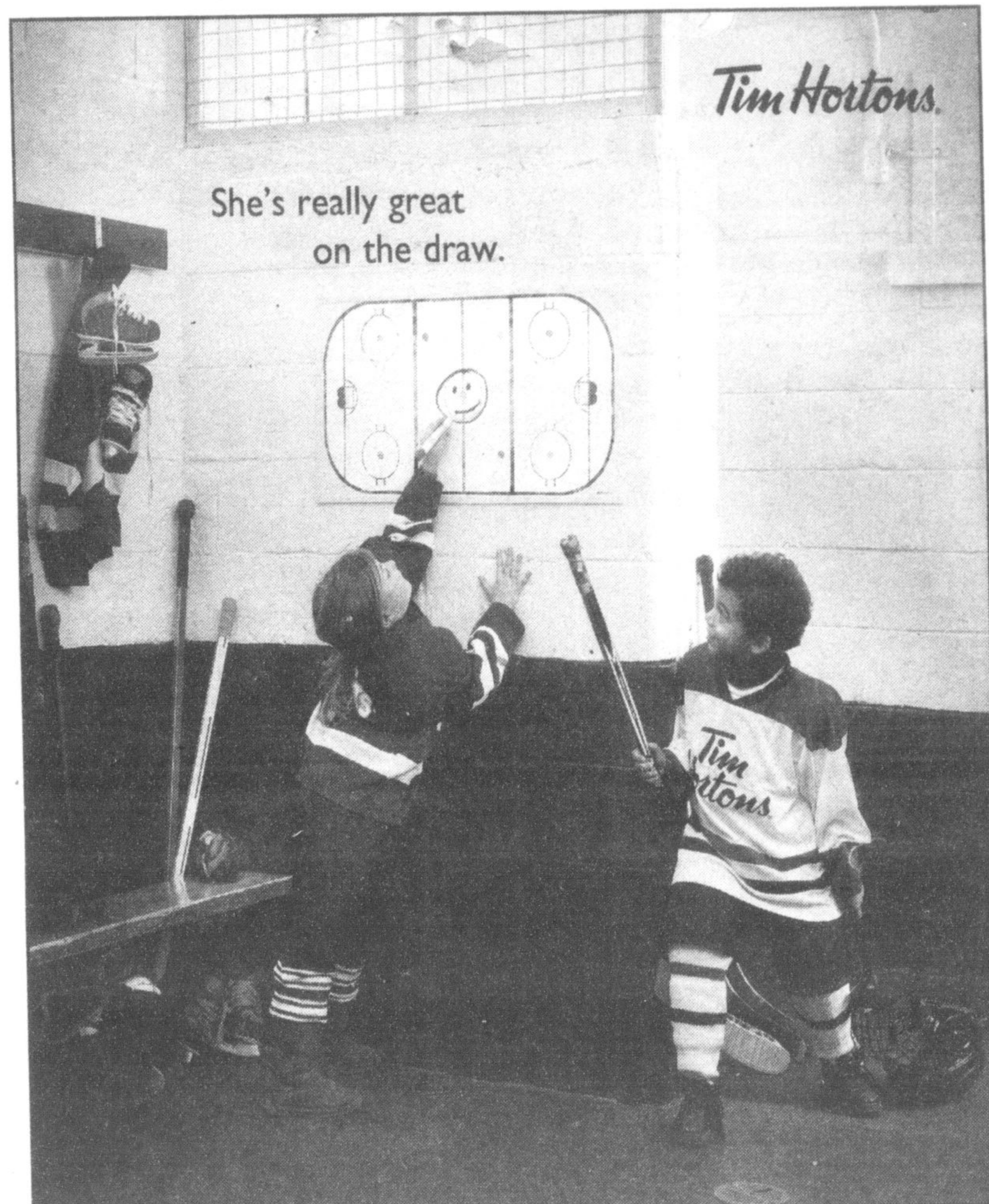
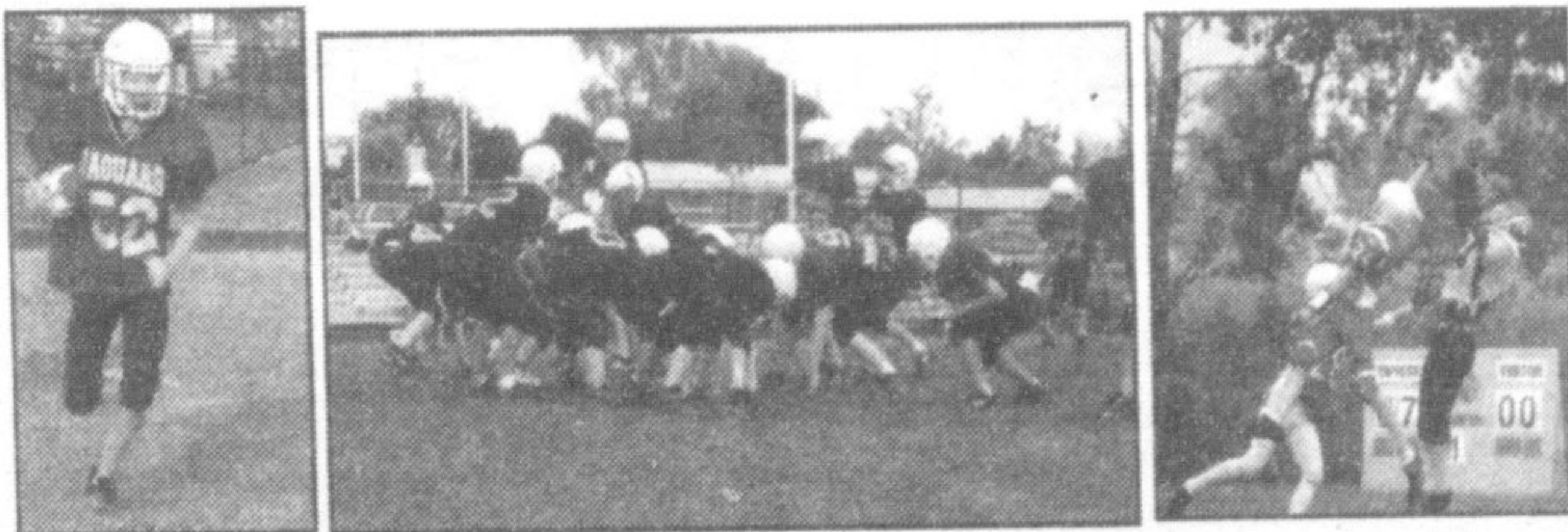
\*Players who qualify for OVFL play will be asked to pay an additional fee.

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The first goal is having fun.

# Need pressing for housing for singles, families: Region

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for low-income seniors and for the disabled.

Adelina Urbanski, commissioner of social services for Halton Region, said it's positive the federal government is taking an interest in social housing, albeit temporarily, but she would have preferred the decision on the types of housing to be built was left to the municipalities.

"The problem is when feds (federal government) dictate what local needs are," Urbanski said.

In Halton, seniors waiting for social housing get into units relatively quickly, in a little over a year, Urbanski said. The more pressing need is for housing for single adults or families.

"Singles waiting for a housing unit wait a long, long time," she said. "In fact, they usually give up."

If the Region does decide to put forward a request for funding to build more seniors' housing, it might not benefit Milton, said local councillor and affordable housing advocate Wendy Schau.

A "frustrated" Schau said she's upset that, after three years of talks, the Region hasn't finished a development plan for its Allendale site at the southeast corner of Ontario Street and Childs Drive.

"It would be perfect for seniors' housing," Schau said.

However, since the Region has no plan in place, it's unlikely any project for Allendale would be "shovel-ready" and able to take advantage of the budget's two-year funding, she added.

Urbanski said Halton staff continue to study possibilities for the Allendale site and a report is expected this spring.

"It definitely has not fallen through the cracks," she said.

### Action to build infrastructure

Perhaps the most hyped aspect of the stimulus package included in the budget, new money for infrastructure totals \$12 billion over the next two years, much of which will benefit municipalities.

The funds are on top of the federal government's already existing Building Canada infrastructure program, portions of which has been criticized for doling out money slowly and only after approving individual applications by municipalities rather than allocating money based on population.

The application process remains in place, though the federal government is promising to cover up to half of the costs of infrastructure projects rather than simply one third and it has promised the funds will flow quickly.

Milton and other Halton municipalities, anticipating this aspect for the budget, have already compiled 'shovel-ready' projects.

Milton's list of 11 projects, totalling about \$11 million, includes \$7.5 million in roads and bridges projects, \$1.6 million for repairs to John Tonelli Sports Centre and the Milton Leisure Centre, and close to \$1.5 million for transit vehicle replacement.

"These (projects), of course, are on our needs list, not our wants list," said Krantz.

They have to be done sooner rather than later, he said.

"And they will not get any cheaper."

Both Krantz and Halton Regional chair Gary Carr have said they're eager to receive federal funds and they're committed to putting up a portion of municipal dollars if necessary.

Halton MP Lisa Raitt is scheduled to visit Krantz at the Milton

Sports Centre today to outline one aspect of the infrastructure program — \$500 million over two years for the construction of new and rehabilitation of existing recreational facilities.

### Action to support businesses, consumers

This section includes myriad spending plans for everything from the forestry sector to the Canadian New Media Fund.

Some highlights for Milton business, though, include increasing the amount of small business income eligible for the reduced federal tax rate of 1-1 per cent to \$500,000 from the previous limit of \$400,000, and a temporary 100-per cent capital cost allowance rate for computers purchased over the next year.

The section also includes \$500 million to help the farm sector "adapt to pressures and improve its competitiveness."

Finally, what Raitt said was one of the main highlights for her constituents is the creation of a development agency for southern Ontario, backed by \$1 billion over five years.

The agency's mandate will be to help workers, communities and businesses in the region.

Partially due to the two-year \$40 billion stimulus package included in the budget, the government forecasts about \$85 billion in deficits over the next five years.

The question is how much of the spending will benefit Canada's fastest growing community, according to Regional Councillor Colin Best.

"Like any budget, you have to wait three to six months to get the details."

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