

ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Health-care concerns addressed

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the *Champion's* May 15 editorial entitled 'More common sense on way for health care.'

Ontario's doctors will review the legislation introduced by the government that will broaden the scope of practice for some health-care professionals to ensure that patient safety is protected and that patients are receiving the best care from the most appropriate health-care professional.

We're pleased that many of our concerns that were raised during the consultation process were addressed. Protecting patient safety is paramount and

will be our key consideration as we review the legislation.

Ontario's doctors are also pleased that the government has committed to continue to focus on collaborative care, not health care provided in silos.

Collaborative care models that bring health-care professionals together have gone a long way to enhance access to services for Ontarians.

Today, more than 630,000 patients who didn't have access to a physician now do. We are currently working with the government to find another 500,000 people a doctor.

However, the level of care that a doctor can provide should

not be substituted for expediency. According to a report released by the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, not having a family doctor leads to more emergency room visits and hospital admissions for those who have chronic diseases in Ontario.

That's why Ontario's doctors firmly believe that it should continue to be the goal of the government to help every Ontarian who doesn't have a family physician find one.

**SUZANNE STRASBERG, MD,
PRESIDENT
ONTARIO MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

Plenty of assistance programs available

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these assistance avenues, as evidenced by the stalled efforts of the Rick Jeffrey Kids Foundation (www.rickjeffreykidsfoundation@cogeco.ca), which was started about two years ago by Shailene Papple as a tribute to her sports enthusiast father.

While receiving ample support from businesses and individuals since its 2007 inception, the foundation seems to be in dry dock these days, with no requests for help coming through in recent months. The foundation is more than willing to help youngsters play in any sport, not just hockey.

And that's just one of several programs out there, with Canadian Tire's Jump Start program

and KidsSport being among the others. Both the Town of Milton and Halton Region have their own assistance programs as well.

Judging by talks with Papple, often it's not that parents don't know about these types of benefits, but feel embarrassed about taking advantage of them.

That's somewhat understandable, and it's too bad that sports are such a costly endeavour these days.

But the bigger shame would be a child not being able to experience all that sports has to offer because mom and dad are too proud to ask for a little help.

Many Miltonians willing to lend a helping hand

• from IF on page A6

matters, especially when a child is involved.

Even though Skalski felt distressed, she may have appeared to have the situation under control, and her fellow shoppers didn't want to interfere.

I was recently asked for help by a fellow shopper and I gladly gave it. I'm sure most people in

Milton would do the same. Our community is full of kind, helpful people, as is evidenced by the many letters published in the *Champion* thanking people, often strangers, for their assistance in times of need.

The bottom line is if you need help, ask for it. I don't think you will be disappointed.

As for Skalski's closing

remark, "I hope when those people are in some kind of pain that nobody helps them," doesn't that display the same lack of caring she's complaining about?

As Gandhi said, "We must be the change we want to see in the world." Lead by example, Ms Skalski.

**BESS LILICO
MILTON**

Public school struggling with age limit due to swelling enrollment

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of the *Champion* and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

April 1913

On account of want of room in the infant department of the public school, instructions were issued some time ago that no pupils less than six years of age should be accepted, but the age limit fails to meet present conditions. Every seat in the infant department is now occupied and, within a short time at least 12 children have been turned away, some of them over seven years old. Last Monday two children, newcomers who have been attending school elsewhere, were rejected. One of them is over seven years old. There are 120 pupils in the department, too many for one teacher. A considerable increase in population is expected this year and prompt action to meet the situation is necessary. It is suggested that a new building for the infant classes be erected and that its site be central, so that the youngsters of the south end will not have to walk as far as they do now.

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Yesterday Miss Spearman completed the work of cataloguing the books of the public library. She is the official cataloguer sent out by the Ontario government. She has introduced the new card system desired in all libraries for uniformity and to facilitate full and correct returns to the government, which pays half of the expense. Out of the 417 libraries in the province Miss Spearman has done the cataloguing in about 100 and there are applications for her services from 66. Under the card system all books are so classified and arranged that any book desired and on the shelves can be handed out at once. The card system had a great

Milton Time Capsules



advantage over the printed catalogue, inasmuch as it is always completely up to date. Miss Spearman says that our library compares very favorably with those of most of the towns that she has visited, the books being particularly well selected. Few, she says, have anything like our supply of the best of reference works. She was surprised to hear that though the ratepayers of the town had carried a vote for a Carnegie library more than two years ago, nothing had been done towards carrying out their mandate. Miss Spearman's work was greatly expedited by volunteer help kindly given her by ladies, who have still some work to do, so that it is not likely that the library will be reopened before Saturday 19th. As the work of the librarian in giving out books will be greatly expedited under the new system and as there are many entries to make after it has been finished, the directors have shortened the open hours. In future they will be from 3 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

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Wardens of counties have been asked in a circular issued from Ottawa to say whether or not they approve of old-age pensions, said pensions to be given to the deserving aged and poor only, not to the intemperate or immoral, or to those who have criminal convictions recorded against them.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached through the society at (905) 875-4156.

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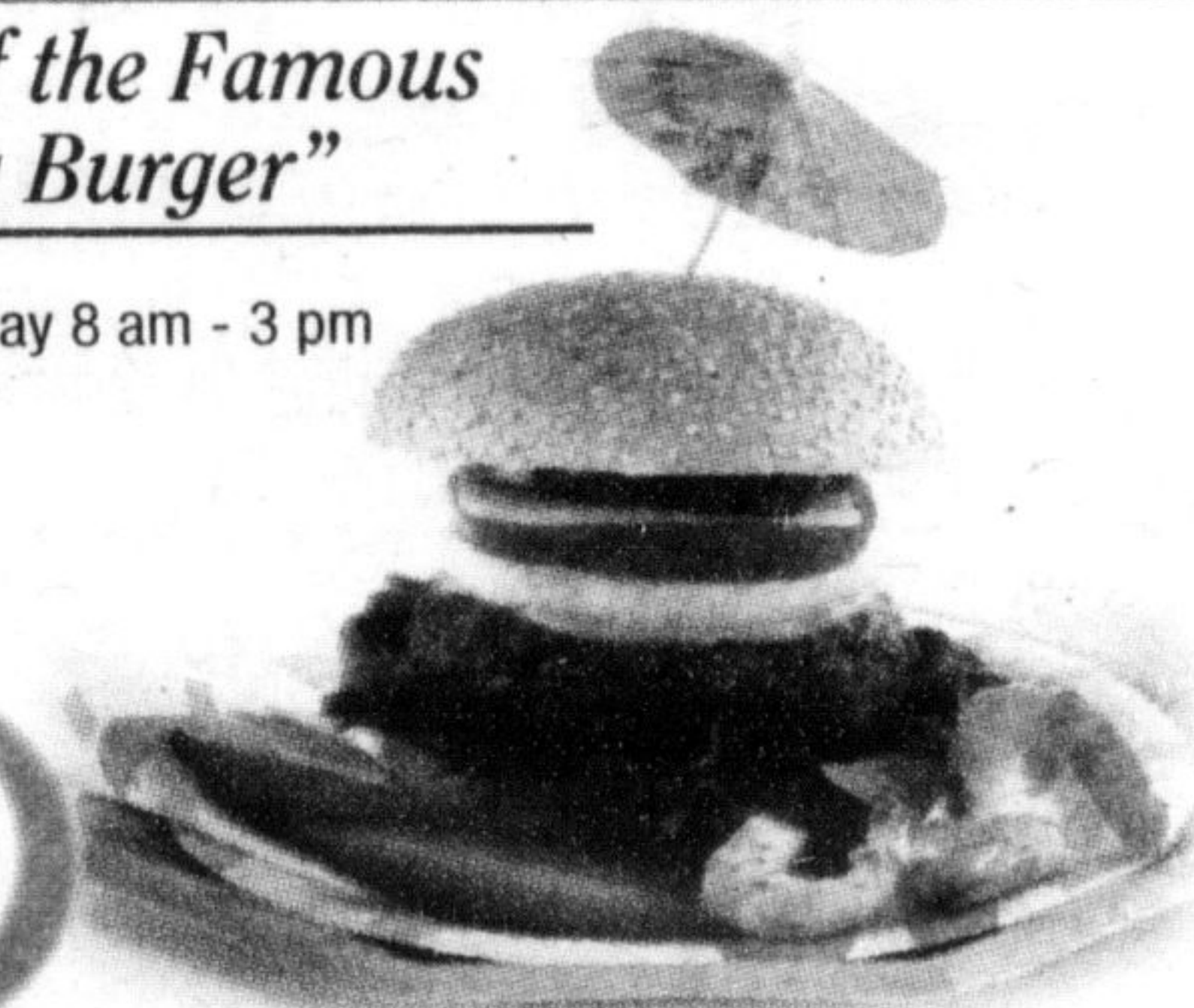
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