

MINMAXX
#1 FOR 0% WIN FREE LISTING
minmaxx.com
264-1111

The Canadian Champion

Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

Weekend Edition

CNA Named Canada's Top Community Newspaper

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

ZAK'S PHARMACY
Milton's Independent Pharmacy
• Free Delivery
• 10% Seniors Discount
• All Drug Plans Accepted
• Written Drug Info. Available
"At Zak's We Care About Your Health"
70 Main St. E. 878-2424

SPORTS
Barnes ready for triathlon worlds



NEWS
Election officially underway



A & E
Hobby taking off for songwriter

A Metroland Media Group publication • Vol. 152 No. 53

Thursday, September 8, 2011

48 Pages • \$1.00 (incl. G.S.T.)



BLOWING OFF SOME STEAM:

Left, Justin Farrow (left), 4, and his brother Jackson, 5, cover their ears from the steam whistles as they take in the Steam-Era Parade with grandmother Derijan on Main Street over the Labour Day weekend. The parade ushered in the 51st annual Steam-Era event at the Milton Fair Grounds. Inset, a vintage Sawyer-Massey steam engine blows off a little steam. See more photos from the event on page A2.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

More racing incentives needed, say horsemen

From horse and buggy contests to a high stakes sport, harness racing has become an economic driving force for Ontario and its agricultural sector. For decades, the sport enjoyed a monopoly in the gambling marketplace, but a three-part exclusive series by Metroland West Media Group, *Off Track*, reveals that the \$2.6-billion industry that employs 65,000 Ontarians is under threat. Here is part two in the series.

By Christina Comisso and Catherine O'Hara
METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Following the heyday of the 1970s, when thousands gathered at post time, the crowd in the grandstand eventually grew sparse and the allure of the races began to fade. It was clear the horse industry needed a lifeline.

The \$2.6-billion business, the second largest in the agricultural sector, was an economic engine in Ontario's rural communities. The Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association looked to the Province for help. The Province, in turn, saw a chance to cash in.



The answer came in the form of glittering machines that could eat up cash quicker than you could flip a switch. Since introducing slots at the racetracks, billions of dollars have funneled into Ontario's horse business. But industry experts say the model is broken and in need of repair — fast.

"The public policy of slots at racetracks was to enhance live horse racing and support the

• see BENCHMARKING on page A27

Celebrating 40 Years in Milton

mirage Classic
www.miragefloors.com

TIELEMANS
Fine Flooring & More
Where quality and style meet.
www.floorsfirst.com/tielemansinteriors

340 Main Street, Milton
878-3435

FALL MAINTENANCE PACKAGE

FREE LOCAL SHUTTLE

Goodwrench **\$10 OFF WITH THIS AD**
(Starting Reg. Price from \$50.00 plus tax)

- ✓ Lube, Oil and Filter (including up to 5L of GM premium Motor Oil)
- ✓ Rotate Tires ✓ Inspect Brakes
- ✓ Top Up Fluids ✓ Check Coolant
- ✓ 15 Point Inspection ✓ Check Wipers
- ✓ Inspect Battery & Charging System

Wallace
801 MAIN ST. E., MILTON ON
www.wallacepontiac.com
905-878-2355