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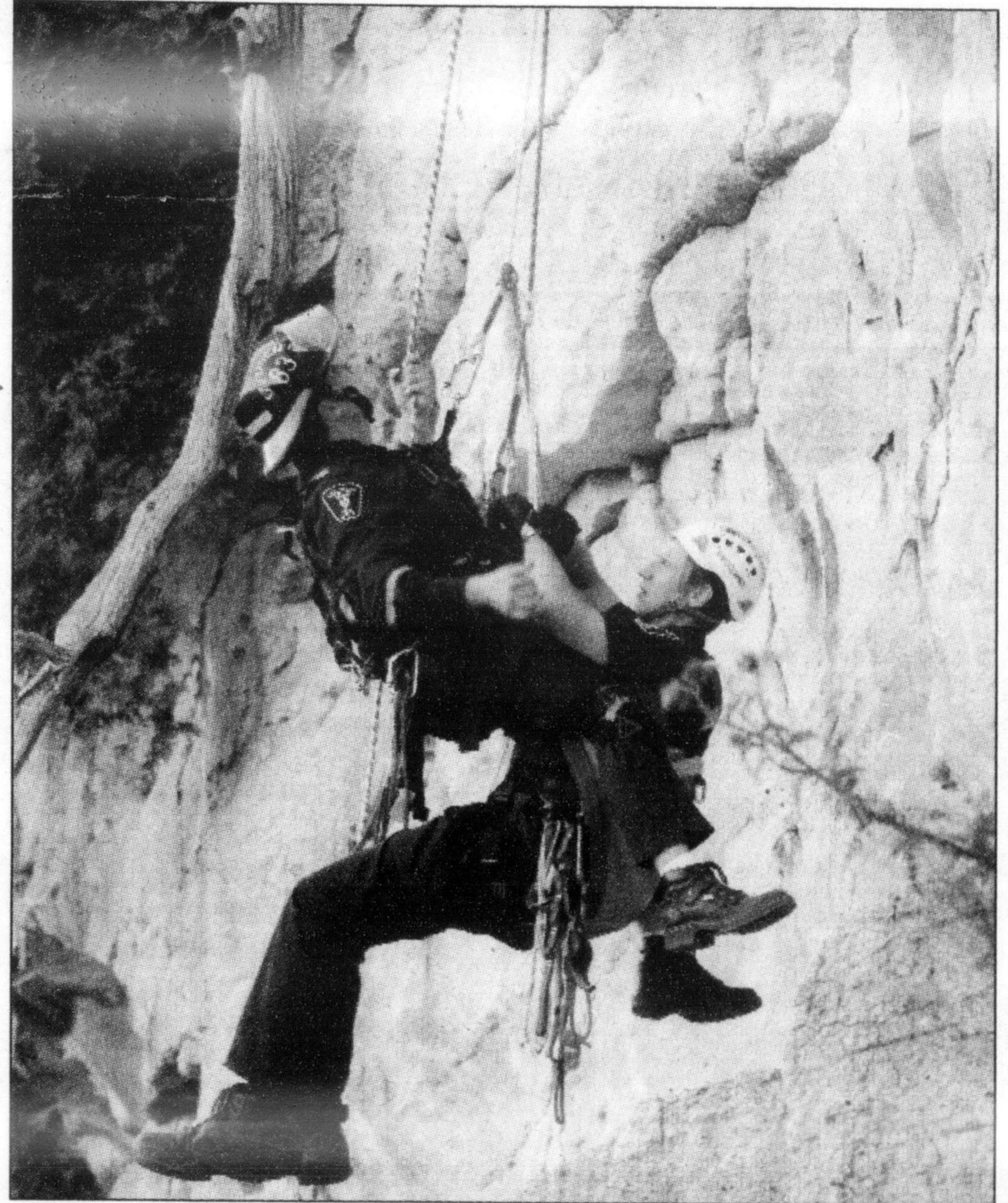
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RISKY BUSINESS: The Milton Fire Department recently conducted rope rescue training on a rockface at Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area. Here, dangling 30 feet above the ground, firefighter Ryan Fraser (left) prepares to lower instructor Chris Burke, playing the part of a stranded climber.

## Dinewise program to be expanded

By Tim Foran CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Food safety inspection reports on grocery and convenience stores, long-term-care homes, and hospitals in Halton will be more easily available to the public as part of an expansion of the Region's Dinewise reporting program approved by council Wednesday.

Currently, Dinewise requires about 1,000 dine-in and take out restaurants in Halton to post a certificate of inspection in a place visible to patrons, as well as provide customers with the results of previous inspections upon request. For the past three years, the Region has also posted on-line summary inspection and offence reports for restaurants in Halton, available at www.halton.ca and by searching Dinewise.

Regional staff recommended the reporting system be expanded over the next year to include all other food premises. The expansion will include an additional 1,000 locations where food is prepared, stored or served including child-care centres, cafeterias and caterers.

Regional staff already inspect these establishments but only provide results to the public upon

request to the health department. Each food premises is inspected based on an assessment of its "risk," explained Matt Ruf of the Region's health department.

A low risk site such as a convenience store is inspected once a year, a moderate risk location such as a fast food restaurant is inspected twice a year, and a high-risk spot such as a full-serve restaurant is inspected thrice a year.

Last year, the Region conducted 4,175 compliance inspections regular, unannounced visits. There were 14 tickets for offences in 2008, with two food premises shut down for health reasons. Over the past six months, three locations have received tickets.

The proposed expansion of the reporting requirements would exempt temporary places such as hot dog carts, community special events or farmers' markets, though staff would continue to inspect these locations on a regular basis and provide the information to the public upon request to the health department.

There's no cost to the food premises to be included in the Dinewise program, according to a staff report outlining the expansion.

Tim Foran can be reached at tforan@miltoncanadianchampion.com.





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