

OPINION

Heat can harm pets so quickly

*Don't leave animals in the car
— not even for a few minutes*

While the summer so far has been cooler than usual, it certainly has been plenty hot enough to harm pets left in vehicles.

Imagine this. You're locked in your car on a hot day. As the minutes slowly pass by, your heart begins to pump faster and perspiration and general discomfort from the suffocating surroundings gradually increase. Dehydration begins to set in as you sit roasting in the enclosed vehicle, with no idea when relief will come. Relief doesn't come. It's a painful death as your body shuts down.

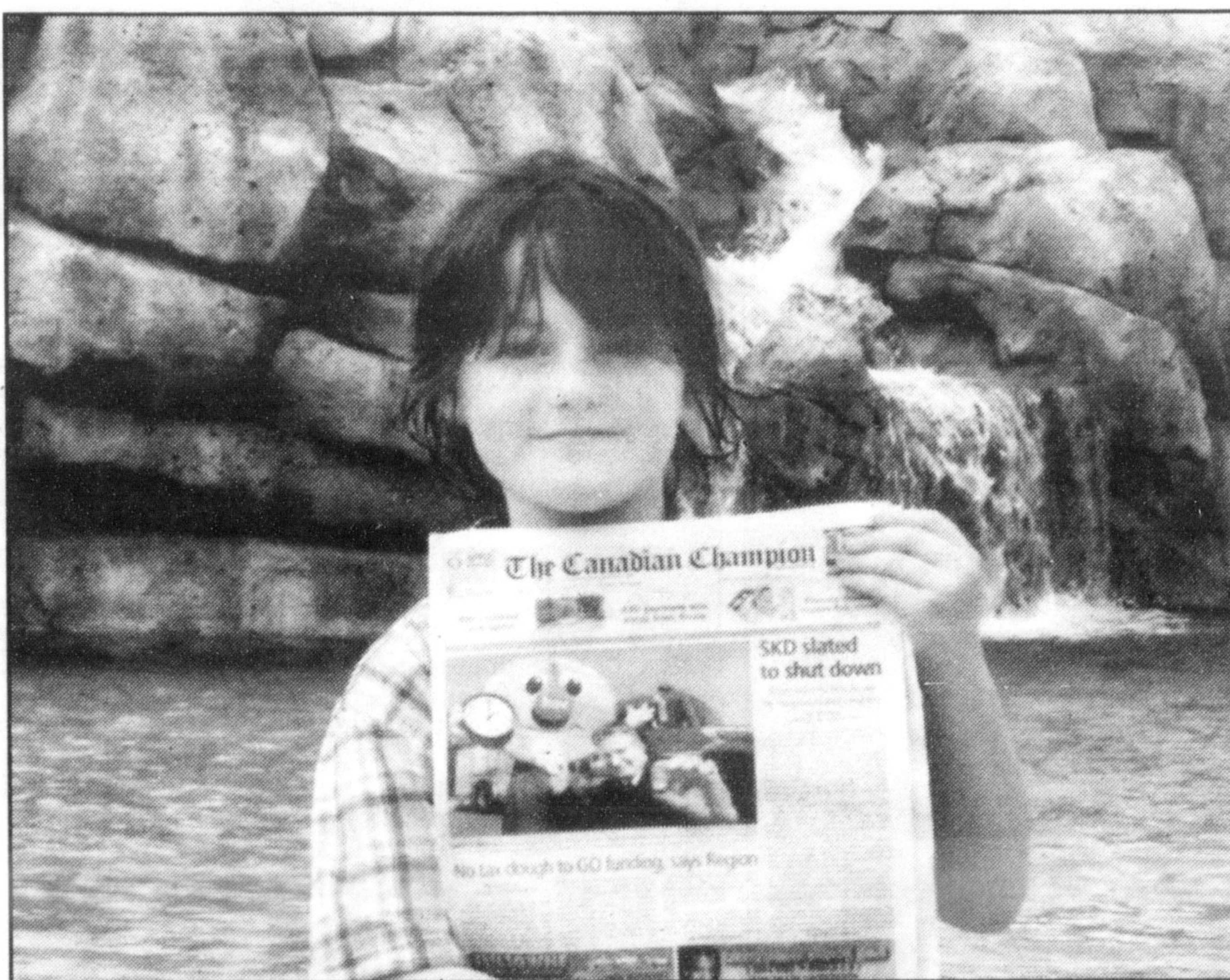
Not exactly a pleasant scenario, is it?

So why do so many people put their supposedly beloved pets — usually dogs — in just such a situation every summer? Animal shelters frequently get calls about pets locked in vehicles, and the all-too-common response, "I just left 'em out there for a few minutes," simply isn't acceptable. Just a few minutes is all it takes for a car to turn into an oven, even with the window open.

Of course, most pet owners don't mean to put their animal in harm's way, but that's pretty much what happens when a dog is left car-bound in the summer for any length of time. Canines don't sweat like people do and can perish quickly.

As an alternative to this negligent exercise, we suggest one family member stay behind and walk the dog around the parking lot while the other runs in to the grocery store or shopping mall. Or why not do all your errands and then go pick up your dog before heading out on that lengthy road trip? That shouldn't be too much to ask for what many claim is a member of the family.

On a related note, dog owners should take along some extra water on those long summer walks. After all, if you start to feel low on fluids, chances are your furry friend's in the same boat.



MAKING TRACKS: Xander Ewing stands in front of a waterfall while visiting Grand Cayman. Take your community newspaper on your next vacation and send your 'Champion Tracks' photos to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com. Be sure to include destination information and everyone's names.

ReadersWrite

E-mail letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com. Letters, which may be edited, must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

Hospital expansion our top priority

DEAR EDITOR:

Does anyone else find it completely backward that our provincial and federal governments are spending \$40 million for sports facilities and a cultural centre yet we can't get seem to get adequate funding for our hospital?

Which is the priority?

I find it ludicrous that we should have to fundraise and send postcards

begging for financial support from our government for such a necessity as a hospital, while funds are readily available for secondary concerns.

Let those involved with the sports facilities and cultural centre hold the bake sales and let our tax dollars go to our essential medical services.

**KATHERINE SPENCE
MILTON**

Aroundtown

Anthony remembered for huge smile, contagious laugh

This week, Miltonians were given a tragic reminder of just how fleeting life can be.

The body of 15-year-old Anthony Marziliano, who had just finished Grade 10 at Bishop Reding Secondary School, was discovered in a lake near the cabin where he was staying with a friend.

Many questions remain about what happened leading up to his death.

As I scrambled to write a story that would give readers a glimpse of who Anthony was, I was privileged to have teens and adults alike share with me their memories of a boy who no doubt left his mark in a big way.

Today Anthony's funeral will be held, but in no way will that put an end to the treas-

ured memories of which they spoke.

Anthony was by all accounts a dedicated fisherman. One of his closest friends, Patrick Swica, e-mailed an old clipping from the *Champion* with a photo of a 10-year-old Anthony and an 11-year-old Patrick proudly holding fish they'd caught at the Mill Pond.

Leo Dal Bello, 15, played on the same soccer and hockey teams as Anthony and said his friend will be remembered for his huge smile and contagious laugh. "He had the biggest smile I've ever seen."

Anthony didn't speak badly of anyone and

was always ready to help his mom, Leo said.

Cameron Chambers said Anthony was the kind of guy who could walk into a room and make everyone burst into laughter. He was outgoing, loyal and knew what it was to give something his all.

"On the basketball court, he was probably the smallest point guard in school history, but scored more baskets per game than everyone else combined," Cameron said.

Thanks to those who shared their thoughts with me during this difficult time.



Stephanie Hounsell

The Canadian Champion

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