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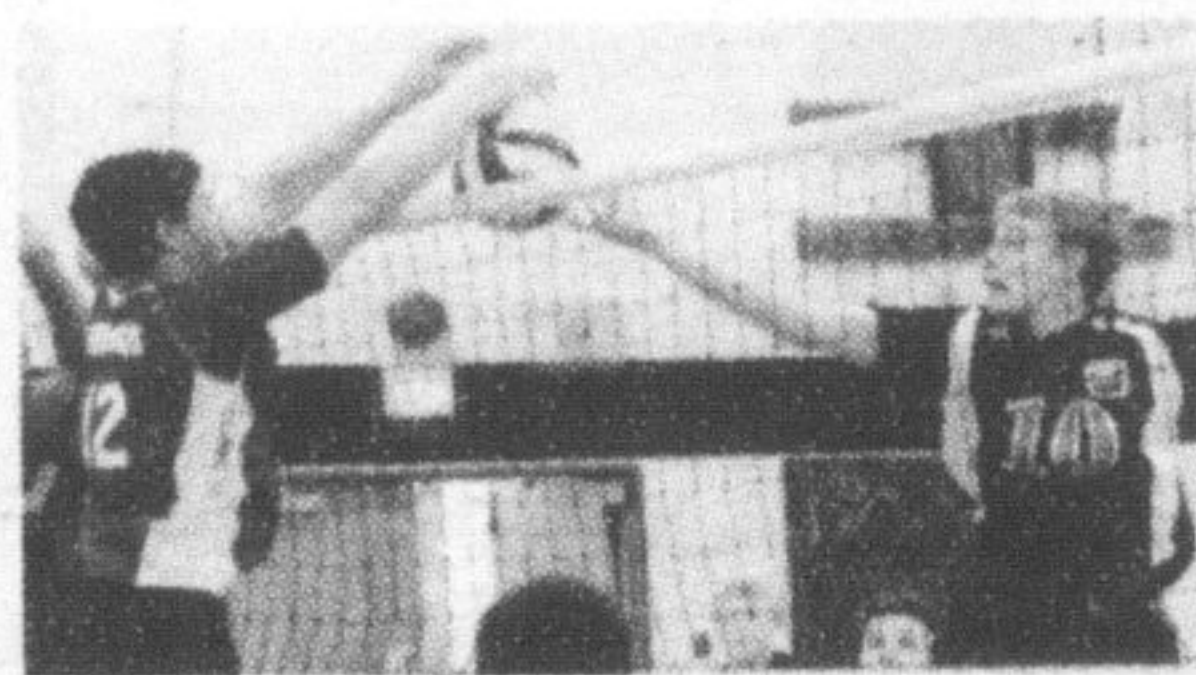
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SPORTS

## MD v-ballers off to strong start



NEWS

## Region may seek park smoking ban



A & E

## Travelling back in time

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED:** The Salvation Army's Capt. Bill Blackman, director of family services, demonstrates the efficiency of the food bank's new storage system, which has triple the previous storage capacity. Numerous businesses and volunteers invested their time, products and money to complete the project. They include Eric Carusi from TransPro, Craig Bond from Semco Systems and Jim Dunn from Konstant, who supplied equipment; Mike Ferrari and Dean Chudleigh from Chudleigh's, who arranged donations; and individuals from Prosperity One Credit Union and GE Volunteers Foundation — including Lesley Mansfield and Monday Chambaruka, respectively — who helped purchase equipment and provide expertise. About 35 volunteers helped with installation and \$20,000 in cash and equipment was donated.

## Halton has higher skin cancer rates

By Tim Foran  
CANADIAN  
CHAMPION STAFF

Halton continues to experience higher than normal rates of the skin cancer melanoma, according to a report reviewed by the Region's health committee Tuesday.

"Melanoma incidence rates were 40 per cent higher in Halton than Ontario for 2000 to 2004 combined and a similar degree of difference was seen in the previous time periods, based on recent data from Cancer Care Ontario," stated the staff report.

The report accompanied the release of an overview of cancer incidence and mortality rates in the region. Specifically, the incidence rate of melanoma in Halton was 18 per 100,000 per year compared to the provincial rate of 13, according to the most recent statistics available from 2000-04.

However, the rate of death due to melanoma was the same as the provincial average and doesn't appear to be increasing, the report noted. Mortality rates for melanoma have remained constant at about two deaths per 100,000 per year.

"Exposure to ultra violet radiation (UVR) from the sun and artificial sources in early childhood and adolescence

onwards results in increased incidence of skin cancer," the report stated.

Skin cancer is the most common type diagnosed in Canada as it accounts for about one-third of all new cases, the report added.

Citing reports from the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the report stated exposure to UVR at tanning salons significantly enhances the chances of developing skin cancer.

About a third of Halton's adults have had sunburn in the last year and spent unprotected time in the sun during the UV peak hours of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the report stated based on a 2008 survey.

Cancer Care Ontario has set targets of having less than 10 per cent of Ontarians experiencing sunburns and unprotected sun exposure by 2020.

"There is a need to increase UVR protective behaviours in our community," the report concluded.

Halton's public health department has undertaken programming related to sun safety and UVR protection, including targeting golfers with sunscreen information. Staff are also part of a GTA-wide working group dedicated to reducing artificial tanning among youth.

Tim Foran can be reached at [tforan@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:tforan@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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