

# OPINION

## Three cheers!

It has been a long time coming but we applaud Halton Region's forward-thinking stand when it comes to banning smoking in public places.

On February 15 — appropriately Family Day — Halton parents will no longer be able to puff away in front of public hockey arenas and facilities such as pools and public libraries.

The ban states that no one can light up within nine metres, or about 30 feet, of municipal facilities. The prohibition applies to all buildings owned or leased by Halton Region or any of the four Halton municipalities.

Along with recreation facilities, the list also includes municipal offices, community centres, museums, art galleries, police stations, fire halls, ambulance stations and public washrooms. It would impact about 150 municipal facilities, according to Regional staff.

While we are sure there will be some residents who will bemoan this policy, we believe the majority of people using these facilities will be pleased they no longer have walk through clouds of nicotine as they make their way inside — especially if they have children in tow.

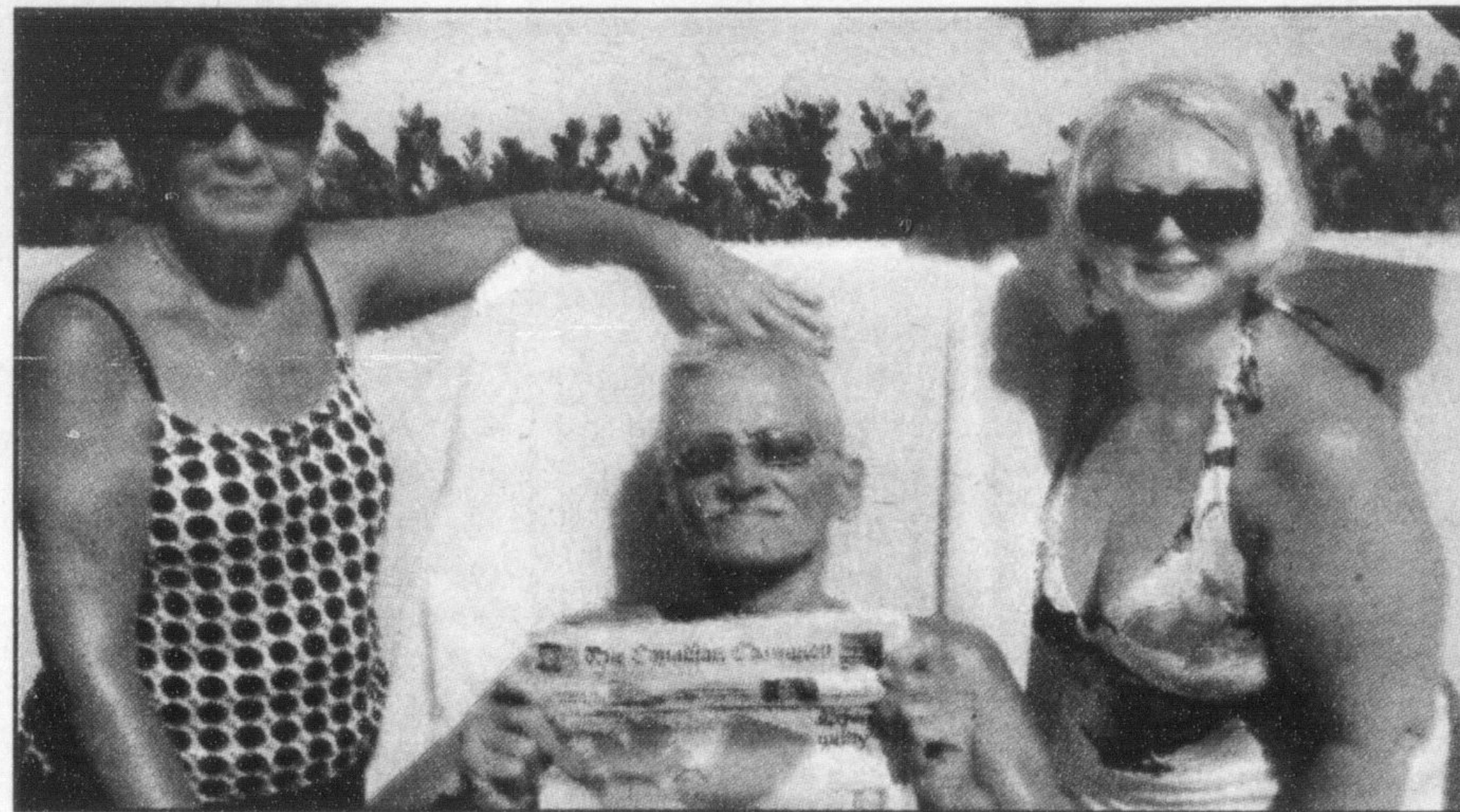
Halton Region has yet to decide on what dollar figure the ticket should be, but said it would be in line with fines issued under the Province's Smoke Free Ontario Act. However, you can't put a price on someone's health.

The Region is also consulting the municipalities and conservation authorities for feedback on a proposed ban on smoking in parks. Council sought that feedback last fall, following a motion by Burlington Councillor Rick Goldring, who requested such a ban be investigated.

Imagine that concept — smoke-free parks. Again, this is all positive for Halton residents who so desperately want to get away from cigarette smoke.

The most recent cancer incidence and mortality statistics for the region should be of concern to all of us. The 2000-04 statistics reveal that despite lower incidence and mortality rates than the provincial average, lung cancer continues to be the third-most common cancer in both men and women in Halton and the No. 1 cancer killer.

That's certainly something smokers should contemplate the next time they fumble for a cigarette lighter.



**CHAMPION TRACKS:** Valerie and John Melaney of Florida and Miltonian Jacqueline Flack enjoy the warm weather in Aruba. 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

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

### Peanut allergy indeed a real concern

**DEAR EDITOR:**

In last Thursday's *Champion*, a reader wrote in asking for information on peanut allergies.

She noticed that times have changed over the past 20 years, from peanut butter being a typical sandwich spread to a product that kills.

I've heard a few theories explaining the reasons for this, including the immune system changing where it no longer had to fight diseases for which we now have vaccinations and altering reactions in the fetus and the overindulgence of peanut butter sandwiches from the previous generation

having caused today's reactions.

Almost every school has children who can die from eating or smelling peanuts. It's not society that's scaring today's children. It's the actual life-threatening experiences that parents and their children have suffered from that's causing the legitimate fear.

Today's children are amazing; they are willing to sacrifice their favourite sandwich for the health and lives of their peers. Remember, it's this compassionate generation that will be taking care of us one day.

**SHERRIE RAIN  
MILTON**

## Upfront

### Ideal time to offer thanks to Milton's sports volunteers

They may be far removed from the sporting spotlight, but they're the ones who keep our minor sports scene running.

They're the coaches, managers and various other parent volunteers — those who give so much of themselves and often get very little in return.

This Saturday represents an ideal time to change that, as our country is once again set to celebrate Hockey Day in Canada. Airing from Stratford starting at noon, CBC will feature a number of inspiring profiles about the passion we have for our beloved pastime.

But it's not just those with intriguing stories to tell who deserve our recognition and gratitude.

Chair Lynne Fuller and her supporting

staff deserve major kudos for running last month's Beaver Tournament. At a time when most people relish a few days off to relax and spend time with family, those dedicated volunteers put dawn-to-dusk stints at Milton Sports Centre so that our area's youth could enjoy another holiday hockey bash.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

How about guys like Gerry Moynagh, who works the clock for countless Hurricanes games and has always met your local sports scribe with a friendly, helpful air.

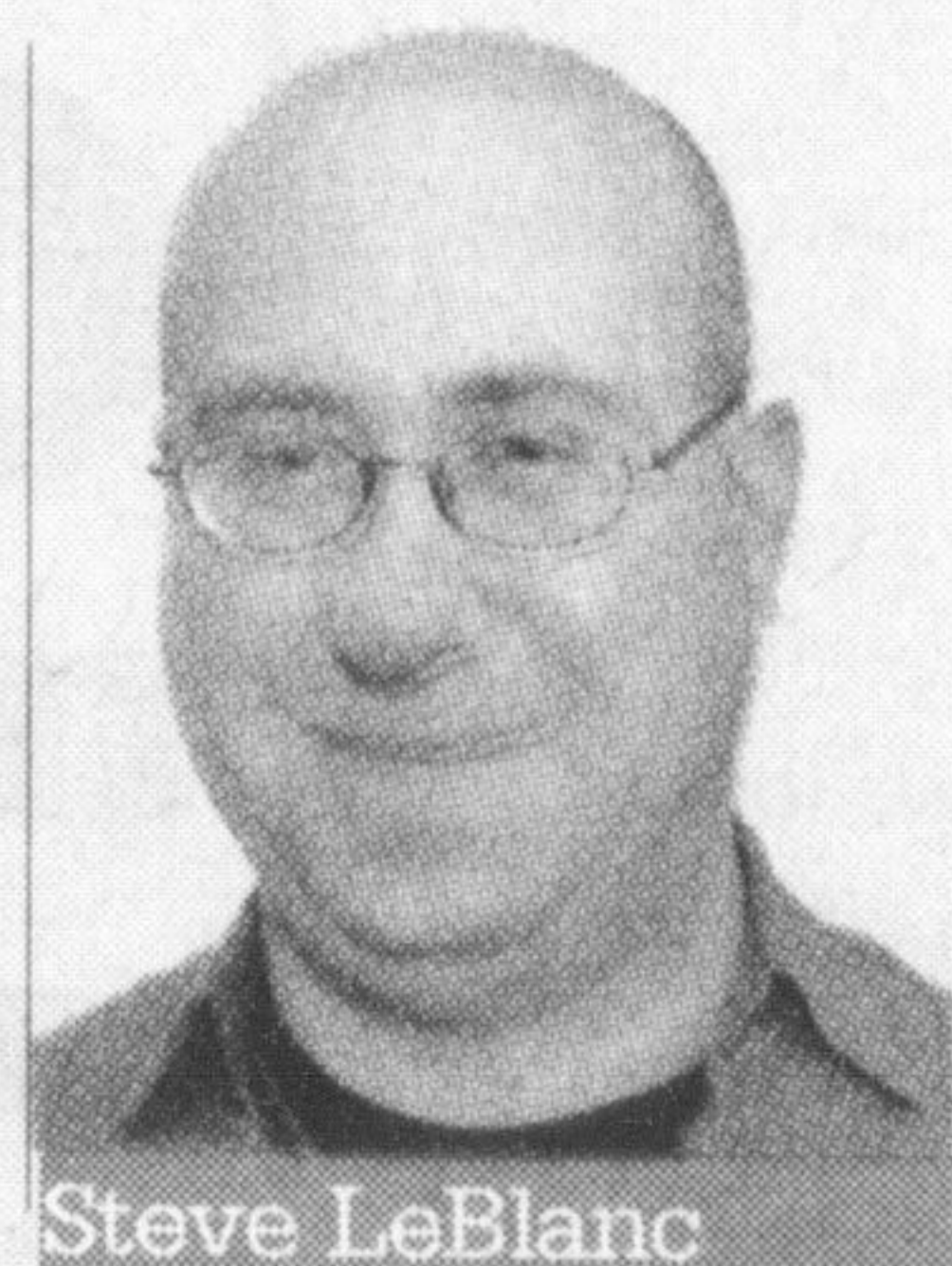
Speaking of making my life easier, there's a small group of minor hockey contacts who

are especially reliable about getting me detailed reports in a regular and timely fashion. Think the kids are the only ones who appreciate this? Think again.

Throw in a myriad of other behind-the-scenes jobs and there's no shortage of people to thank on the local hockey front — or Milton's entire sporting community, for that matter.

So when you're taking Junior to the arena this weekend, how about offering a quick thanks to someone who — in a big or small way — helps make

his or her sports experience an enjoyable one. A little appreciation can go a long way.



Steve LeBlanc

## The Canadian Champion

Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

555 Industrial Dr.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1

**905-878-2341**

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

**V.P. — Group Publisher**

Neil Oliver

**Regional General Manager**

David Harvey

**General Manager**

Debbi Koppejan

**Editor in Chief**

Jill Davis

**Managing Editor**

Karen Miceli

**Production Manager**

Tim Coles

**Circulation Manager**

Charlene Hall

**Office Manager**

Sandy Pare

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Thursday, is a division of Metroland Media Group Ltd.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

**CCAB Audited**

Recognized for excellence by

**OCNA** Ontario Community Newspapers Association

**CNA** Canadian Community Newspapers Association

**SN** Suburban Newspapers of America

The Canadian Champion is a proud media sponsor for:

**Halton Healthcare**

**Child Find**  
ONTARIO

**WELCOME WAGON**  
SINCE 1950

**THE SALTBRIDGE**  
FESTIVAL

**MILTON SANTA CLAUS PARADE**

Jingle Bell Fund

**UNITED WAY OF MILTON**

**How For Life**  
Pledge your life

**MILTON CANADA DAY**

**MILTON POLICE**

**MCRC**

**YMCA OF ONTARIO**

**ATHENA Awards**

**The Oakville, Milton and District Real Estate Board**

**SPRING**

**GALA Awards**

**FAO**  
POLICE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product.