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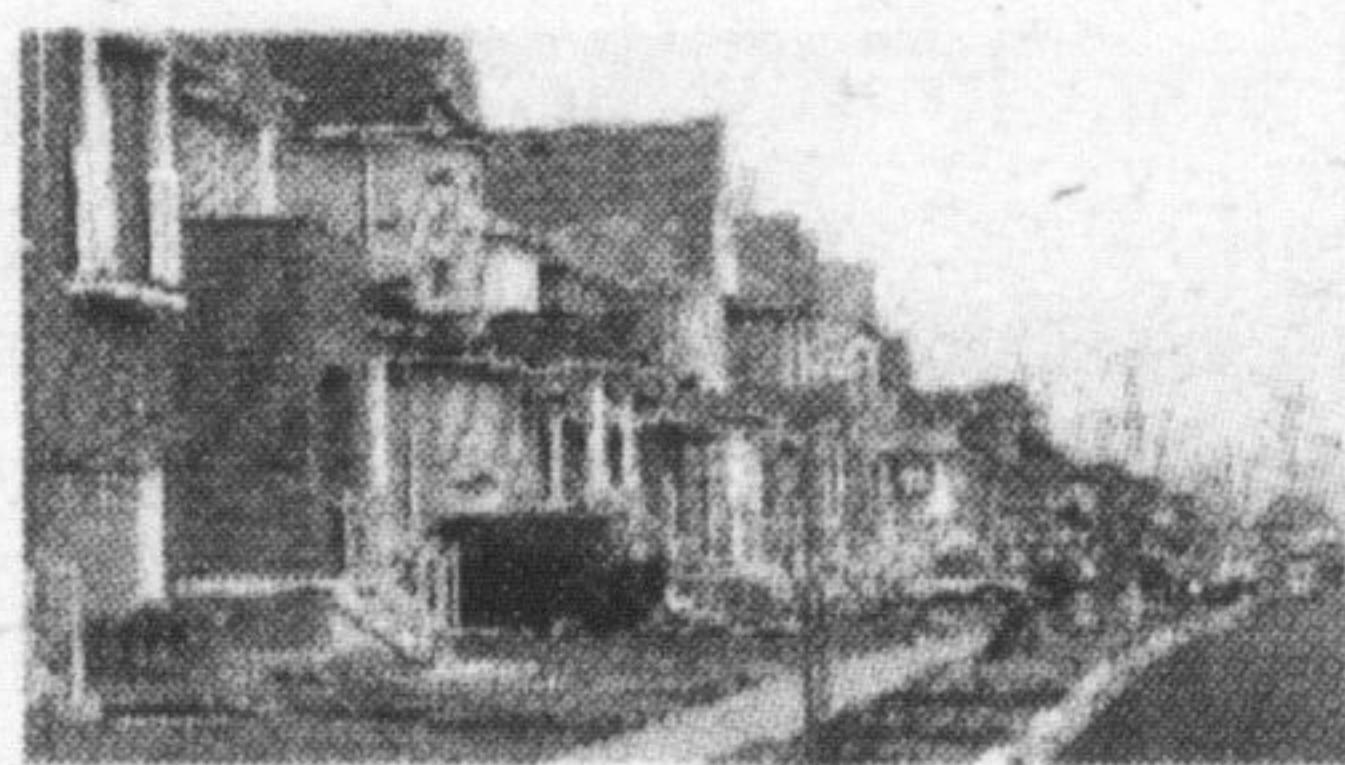
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Big decline in police complaints

Complaints almost cease following creation of investigation agency

By Tim Foran

METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

The Province's creation of an independent, civilian agency to oversee the investigation of public complaints against police has coincided with an almost 100 per cent drop in such complaints in Halton.

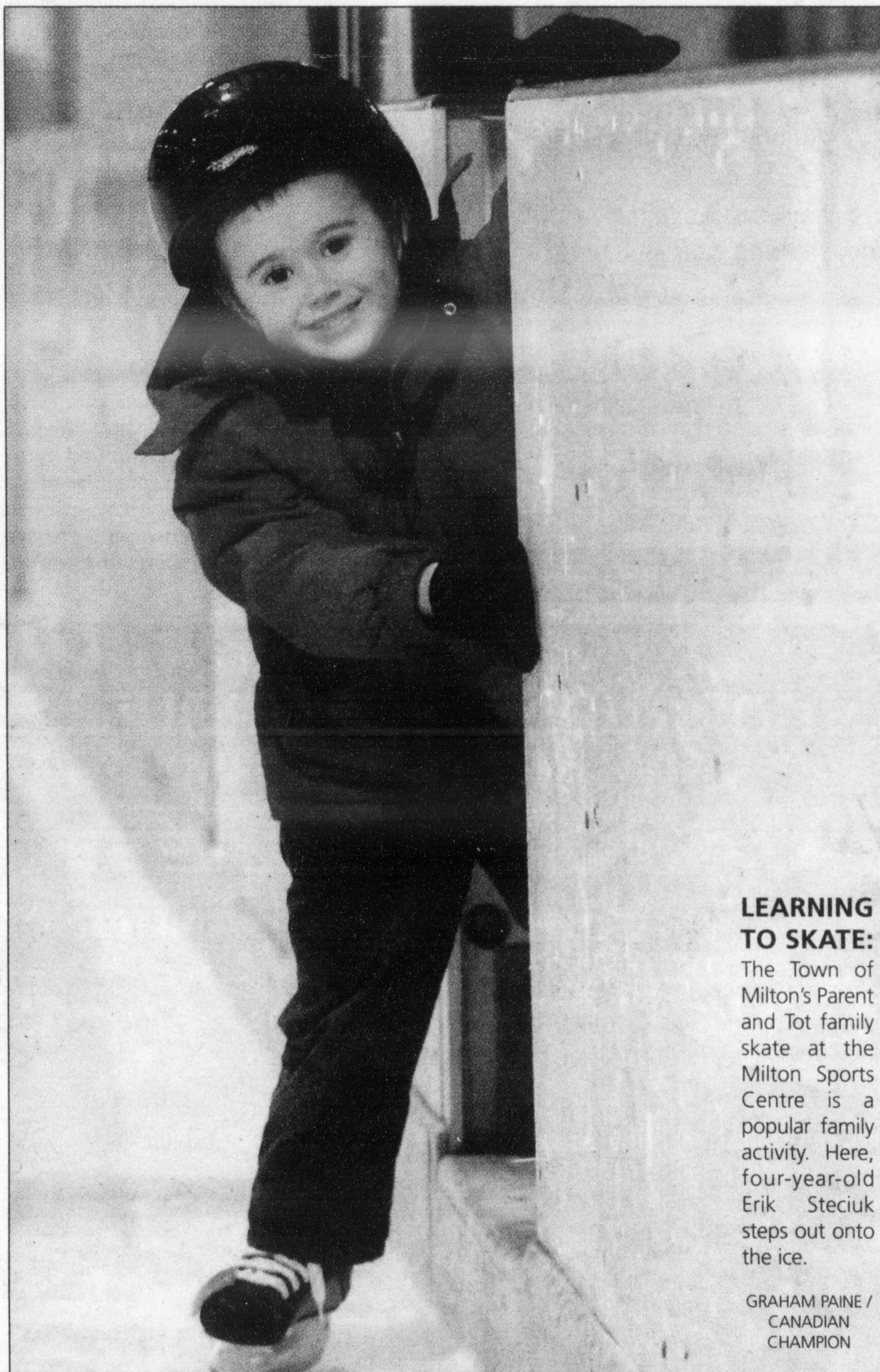
Halton Regional Police received only two public complaints in 2009 for incidents that took place after October 19, the date the Province's Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) assumed responsibility for managing such complaints from police chiefs.

In comparison, Halton's police service received 68 public complaints last year for incidents that happened prior to the opening of the OIPRD, according to police statistics. The service received 55, 59 and 61 public complaints in the three preceding full years respectively.

Staff sergeants have reported the public isn't following through with the new complaints process, Insp. Carol Crowe of Halton Regional Police's professional standards bureau told members of Halton's police services board at its last meeting.

"What's important to the public, it seems, is that the service is aware of their concerns," said Crowe during a presentation on the

• see **COMPLAINANTS** on page A4



LEARNING TO SKATE:

The Town of Milton's Parent and Tot family skate at the Milton Sports Centre is a popular family activity. Here, four-year-old Erik Steciuk steps out onto the ice.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

No funding for Town this round

The federal government recently announced its latest batch of funding for economic development projects, but the Town of Milton's proposal didn't make the cut this time around.

The municipality applied last year for federal funds to pay for more than half the cost of buying four acres of land in west Milton and developing a business plan to begin a clean technology research park incubator in the Milton Education Village.

The application was submitted to FedDev Ontario, a government agency that administers the Southern Ontario Development Program fund.

While Milton wasn't selected to receive funds in the current round of allocations, all hope isn't lost yet, according to Town Senior Manager of Economic Development Andrew Siltala.

He said the Town could receive money in a later round of funding, or it could resubmit its application.

"We're waiting optimistically," he said. "We know they (FedDev Ontario) receive multiple applications and have to decide which ones will be funded first."

The Town is seeking \$400,000 to cover the estimated \$800,000 it will cost to buy four acres of land in the Milton Education Village, a strip of 450 acres on the west side of Tremaine Road between Britannia and Derry roads.

The Town's application also asks for 75 per cent of the estimated \$127,000 it will cost to hire a lead consultant to deliver a business plan for the incubator, a term used to describe a facility that helps emerging technology companies take the next step.

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