

**More cars stopped**

**Drunk driving shows a decrease**

Halton Regional Police report a significant decrease in the number of impaired drivers on Halton's roads this year, compared with 1985. In 1986, the force stopped more than 11,000 additional cars over the same period in 1985. But despite the 32-per-cent increase in the number of vehicles checked, only 794 impaired charges were laid. That compares with 811 charges in 1985. But there is a substantial increase in the number of charges handed out in spot checks. In 1985, only 84 people were charged in those checks, while last year 127 were charged. Police year-end statistics show the number of 12-hour suspensions has increased drastically over 1985. In 1986, 130 people had their licences suspended for 12 hours, while the figure for 1985 is 78 per cent less, at 73. That says that while people are still drinking and driving, they are conscious of the penalties, so they are cutting down on the number of drinks they have before getting

behind the wheel," said Sgt. Garry Bogue, who heads up the force's traffic division. Statistics show drivers are most cautious about drinking and driving during December and January, due

largely to the hype surrounding the holiday spot check programs. Halton Regional Police charged only 49 drivers with impaired in December and January. In April, 79 charges were laid, and 88 in May.

**Snowmobile safety needed**

Last year, 17 people died and 485 people were injured in snowmobile accidents in Ontario. The OPP estimate half of the 558 snowmobile accidents in 1985 were alcohol related. The provincial police force says snowmobilers forget how vulnerable they are to injury both on and off the road. Unlike a car or truck, the snowmobile offers little protection in the event of a sudden stop or collision, and the driver and passenger are usually thrown off the vehicle. Police say most off-road accidents occur when snow vehicles strike ob-

jects such as rocks and tree stumps covered by snow. Other hazards to snowmobilers are barely frozen lakes and rivers, which can become treacherous when heavy snowfall covers them. The OPP have a list of the most common violations. They include the lack of safety equipment such as lights and helmets; failure to register the snowmobile and allowing others to operate it; no insurance; driving across or alongside highways without having an operator's licence; disobeying road signs; failure to share the roadway; and careless driving and impaired operation.



**Opus**

Making the comic-strip character Opus proved to be a small challenge for sisters Cynthia Cachia, 13, (left) and Deborah Cachia, 17, who live in the Bronte Meadows area. The weekend snowstorm provided

them with their material while their heads provided the skills to create the ice man in their yard. The sisters are putting the finishing touches on Opus.

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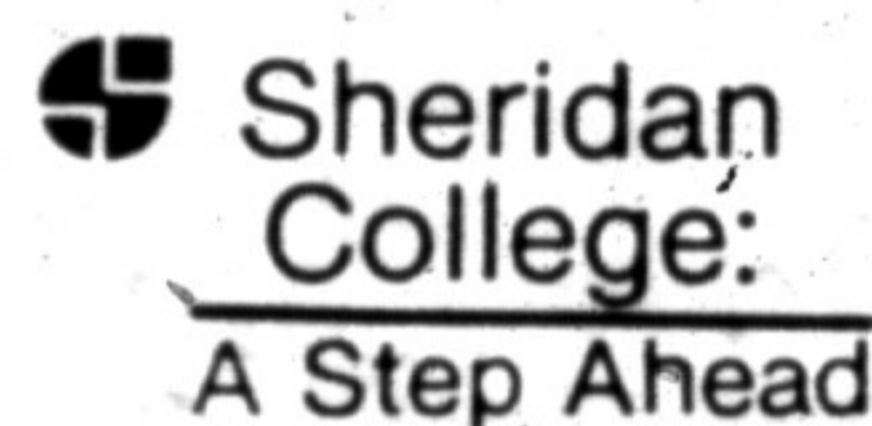
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**Homeless family find home**

By LISA TALLEY  
Champion Reporter  
Edmundo Skinner and his mom Cynthia started the new year off right.

The single mom and her two-year-old son, whose story of looking for a place to live appeared in the Dec. 31 issue of The Champion, have found a home. The Skinners spent 10 weeks living at Halton Women's Place. Since they'd overstayed the limit by four weeks, Cynthia had taken it upon herself to move out on New

Year's Eve. Despite several weeks of searching, Cynthia could not find an affordable place to live.

They had appeared on a news program on CHCH-TV (Channel 11) Hamilton earlier last month. Several weeks after the program aired, an Oakville resident called to offer the family a room in their townhouse.

The Skinners moved into their new quarters in the first week in January.

Cynthia said she's happy with her new location. She is close to Sheridan College where she is enrolled in a Futures program set to begin later this month.

Because of her past experiences (Cynthia was an abused wife) she was negative about her future, but she says now she has a more positive outlook on her life.

She said she's excited about starting back to school and is just waiting to hear which day-care centre her son will be enrolled into.



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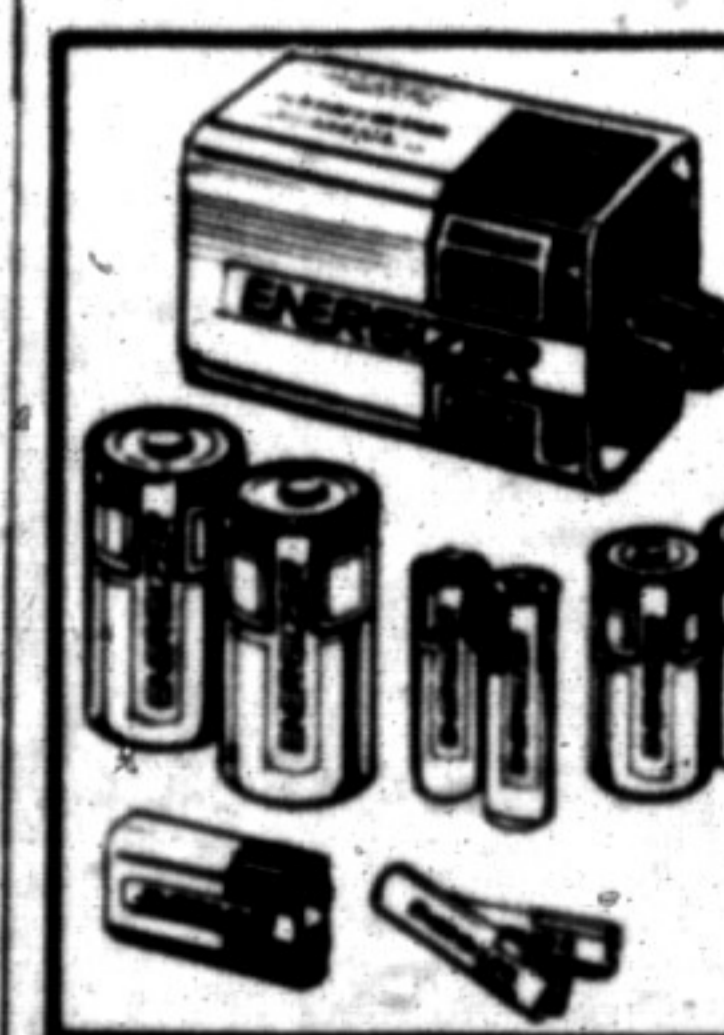
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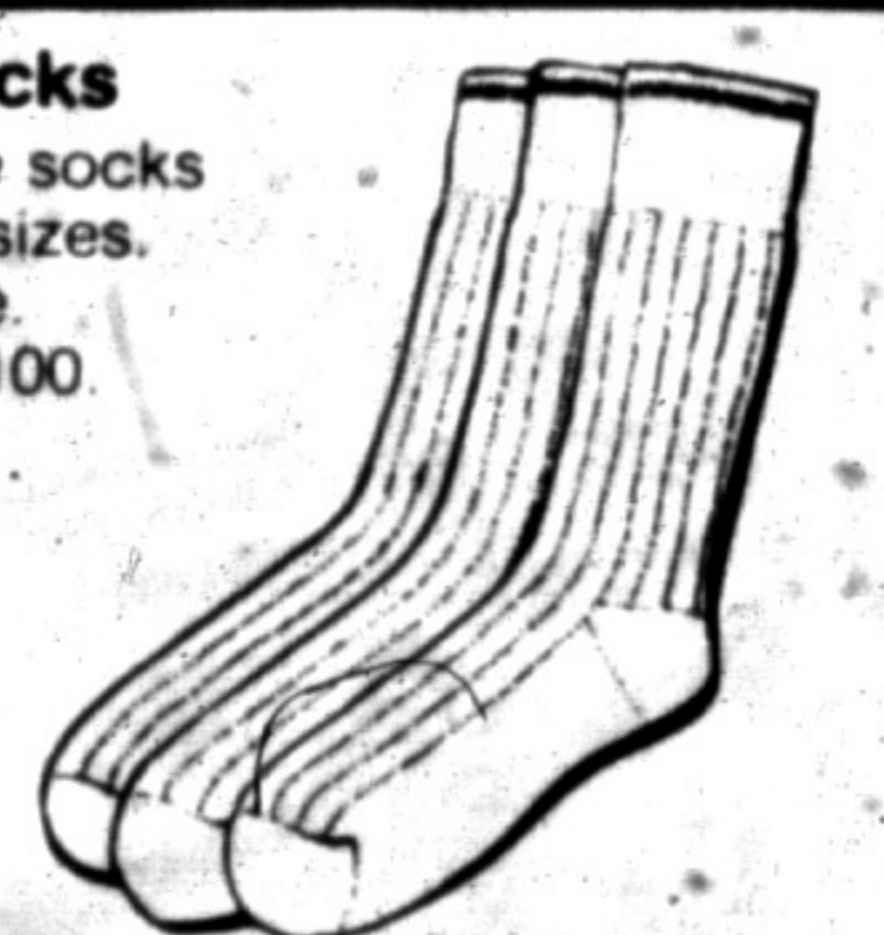
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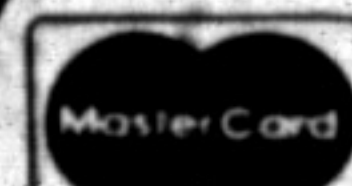
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