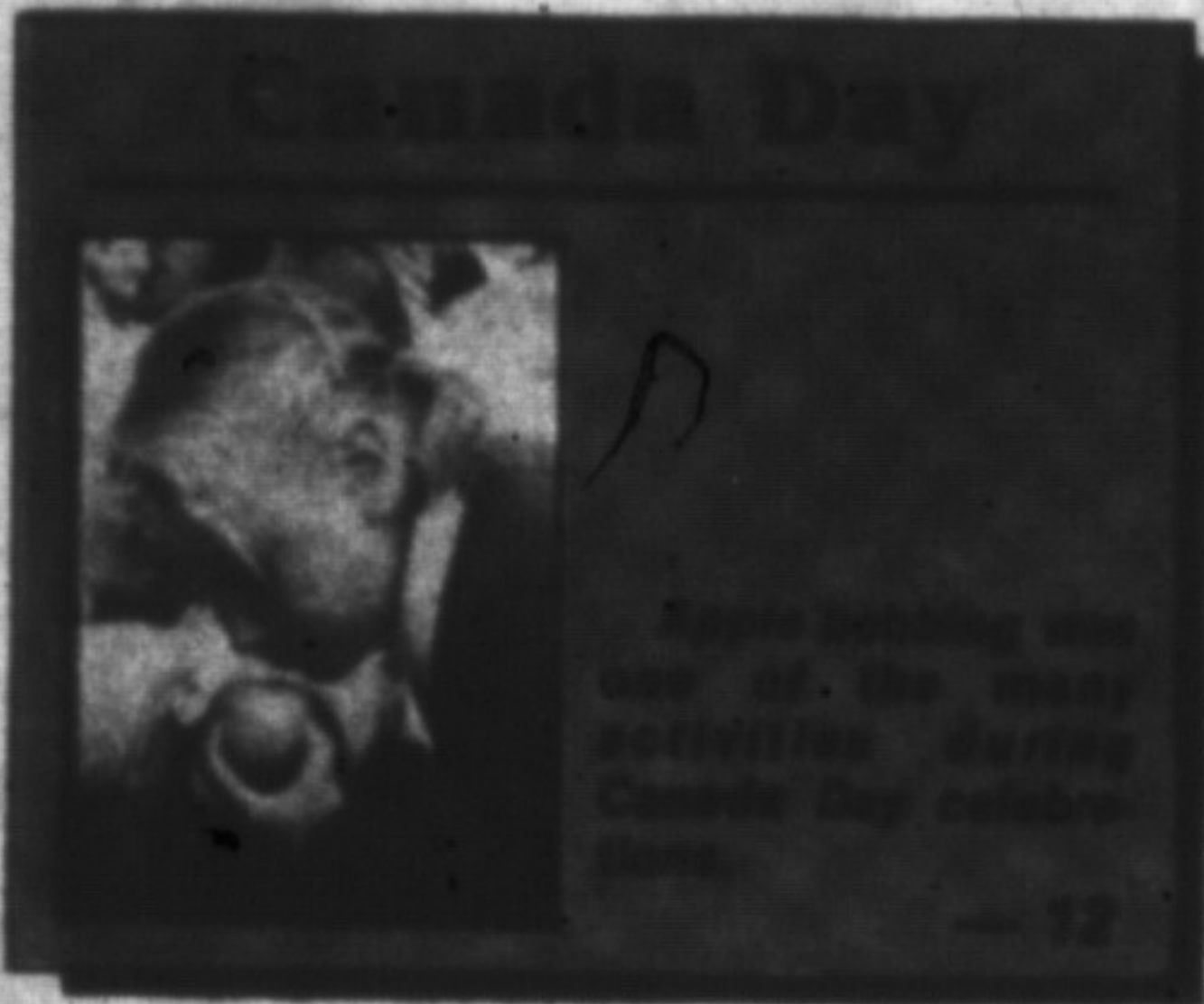


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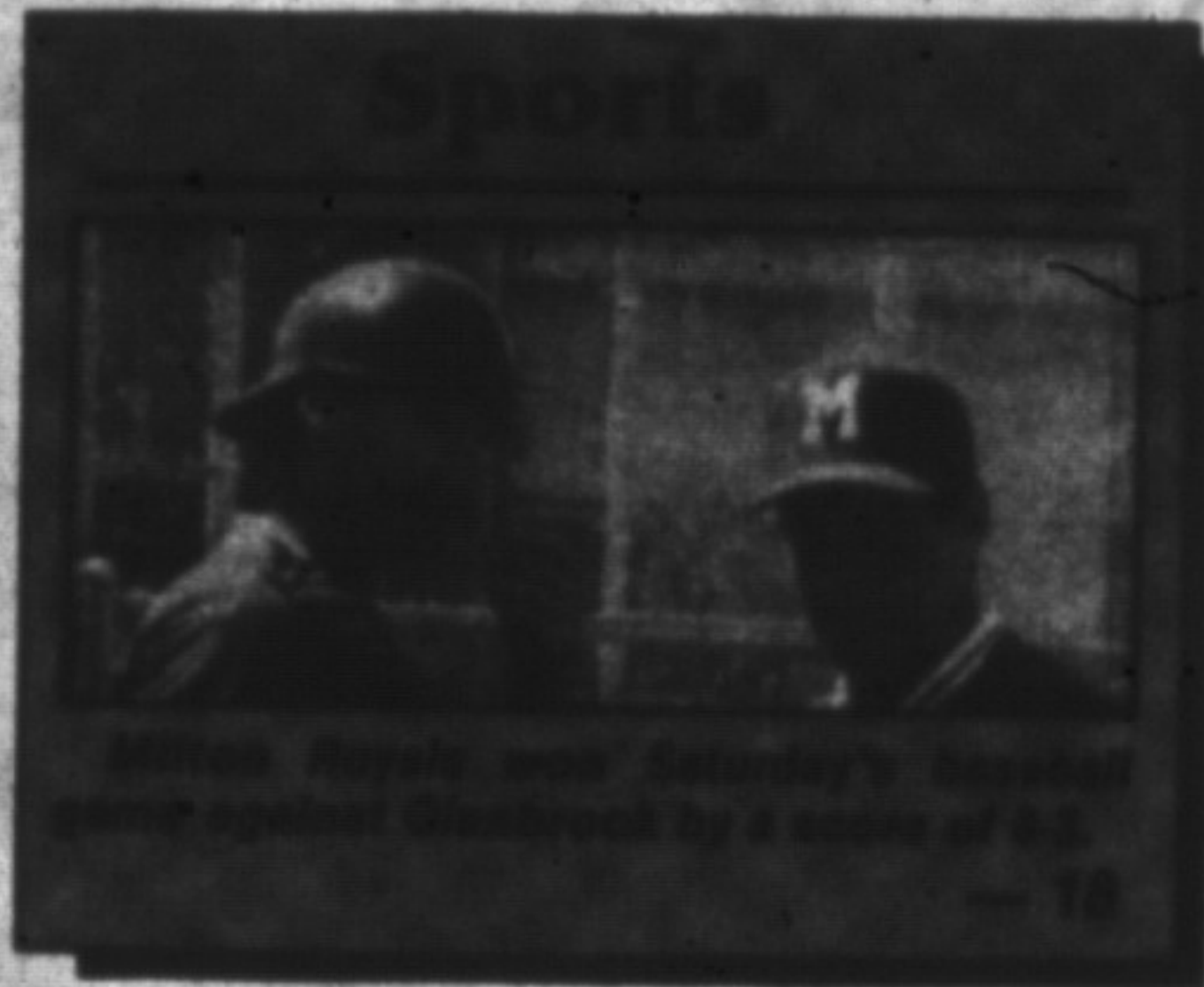
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## Great Year



Rotary exchange student Jean-Claude Englebert of Belgium discovered Canadians love fast food. — 16



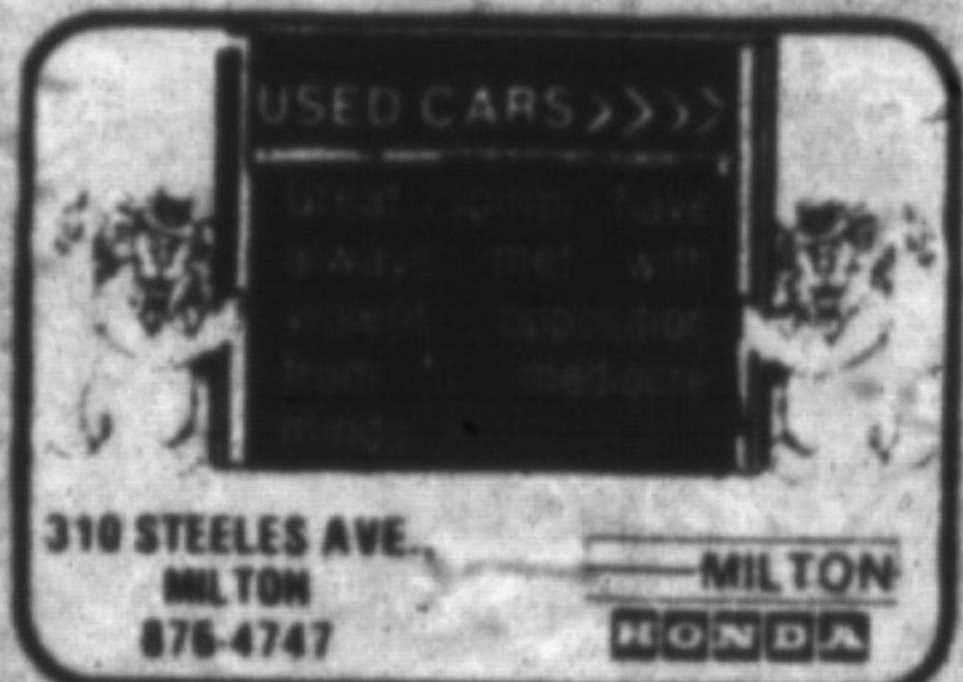
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TODAY'S QUOTE: Knowledge comes by taking things apart; analysis. Wisdom comes by putting things together.

# The Canadian Champion

Wednesday edition

A Metroland Community Newspaper  
serving the town of Milton



VOLUME 129 — NUMBER 52

MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1988

30 CENTS

40 PAGES



## All Aboard!

Visitors to the Milton Radial Railway Museum are invited to relive the past as passengers on electric street cars and trains. Conductor John Ogilvie manned the controls during the museum's recent Summer Extravaganza event, taking visitors

along the one-mile track through the scenic Niagara Escarpment. The museum is located on Guelph Line, 16 km north of Highway 401 and is operated by volunteers.

## Farmers face crop failure

By LISA TALLYN

Frank Anthony is praying for rain, not just a shower, but three solid days of downpour.

The Fifth Line Milton cashcropper has been farming for the past 30 years. He currently has 6,000 acres of corn, soybeans, and winter wheat heading toward dormancy due to lack of moisture.

"With the crops planted after May 16 (the last substantial rain date) we are now looking at a yield reduction of up to 50 per cent," said Mr. Anthony who is also vice-president of the Ontario Corn Growers Association.

"With those planted before that date we are already looking at a 20 per cent yield reduction."

He says this has been the driest summer he can remember, but adds that farmers have learned not to count on perfect weather conditions.

"This is the second year in the row that we have been affected by drought."

He says it finally rained last summer on June 26.

"This year the spring grain is virtually a write-off. Even if it rains this week, and it doesn't look like it will, it is supposed to ripen in three weeks. But there has been no moisture."

"The lack of rain is becoming a very serious problem," said Phyllis MacMaster, agriculture representative for the region. "I can't remember it being this dry since I began with the ministry nine years ago."

Ms MacMaster says although most farmers can expect poor crop yields, they can also expect relatively high prices. Last year a bushel of soybeans fetched \$7.25 by the end of the season. Already that price has jumped to more than \$11.

She adds, however, that many farmers will only be in a break-even position, even those who carry crop insurance.

Mr. Anthony, who insures his acreage says the payback will not even cover the costs of planting, or maintaining the land for the season.

### LATE PLANTERS HIT HARDEST

Farmers who have planted after May 16 will be hardest hit by the drought. Crops planted after that date are mostly soybeans and corn, which Mrs. MacMaster says make up the bulk of crops grown in the area.

"Poor germination is the biggest problem. Due to the lack of moisture many plants have not yet germinated, and for some plants because of the length of the growing season it may already be too late."

Most cereal crops; oats, winter and spring wheat, and barley, and about 50 per cent of the corn stand a better chance of providing a higher yield as they were planted before the dry spell, but they will not likely meet the average yield.

Corn plants which should be knee height by now are just half that size. Without moisture corn, oat and wheat kernels will be small. The drought will also damage the straw yield.

"By this point farmers would be doing their second cut of hay, and they would cut three times in the average season. They will be lucky to get one-third of the average yield."

Lack of moisture and the fluctuating temperatures last month have wreaked havoc on the already short strawberry season.

Local strawberry farmers are feeling the pinch. "It is quite a change from last year," said Laura Hughes of Springridge Farms. "Last year's season lasted five weeks, this year we will have three. This will be the last weekend."

She said that despite the extensive irrigation system at the farm, this year's berries were smaller, and there were fewer of them than in the past.