

ONTARIO WEEKLY NEWSPAPER ASS  
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# The Champion

Canadian

Wednesday edition

A Metroland Community Newspaper serving the town of Milton

MILTON  
A Cheerful heart is the best medicine  
We're Fun To Deal With  
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## Cub's death sparks health warning

By LISA TALLYN

Geoffrey Benson, a 10-year-old J.M. Denyes student, was found dead at the Woodland Trails Boy Scout Camp on the Sixth Line Sunday morning.

A postmortem examination performed later that day has revealed that Geoffrey had Haemophilus influenza, a strain of the flu. The disease has been linked with his death, but it has not been determined exactly how he died.

Dr. Graham Pollett, medical officer of health for Halton Region, says that the parents of the 25 youths, members of the Fifth Milton Cub Pack, who were at the scout camp on an overnight winter camp with Geoffrey, have been notified to watch for signs of the disease.

"Haemophilus influenza is an organism known to cause an infection in children Geoffrey's age and younger," said Dr. Pollett. "It is commonly associated with ear infections, but can lead to more serious infections."

J.M. Denyes staff have been notified of the results of the postmortem. Letters will be sent to parents of children who attend that school.

Dr. Pollett says the strain can cause meningitis, although testing revealed that Geoffrey did not have that disease.

"He must have had an overwhelming infection throughout the night. We don't know exactly what happened. It is a very unusual case."

Dr. Pollett is asking parents of Geoffrey's fellow cub scouts to contact their family physicians.

"I advise them to watch for signs of serious infection, the onset of a high fever, headache, nausea and a stiff neck." Those could be signs of meningitis.

In most cases the strain of flu Geoffrey had can be treated with penicillin. In Geoffrey's case the virus was resistant to the drug. He was taking amoxicillin, a form of penicillin, prescribed to him after a recent visit to the emergency ward of Milton District Hospital.

Georgina Benson said she took her son there because he was running a high fever.

Both she and her husband Doug, still reeling from the news of their son's death, agreed to let Geoffrey attend the overnight camping trip because his health had improved, and he wanted to go.

"We thought that he had a cold," said Mr. Benson.

Gilles Laframboise, a scout leader for 17 years, was one of the six leaders in charge of the winter camp on the weekend.

Mr. Laframboise was not available for comment, but his wife Pam also a scout leader, said that Geoffrey had complained of feeling sick Saturday night.

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Geoffrey Benson

### Murder trial starts today

The preliminary hearing involving the murder of a 34-year-old Milton man opened this morning (Wednesday) in Milton Provincial Court.

Bill McLean was found stabbed to death in his Ontario Street apartment building early in the morning of Oct. 30. His 32-year-old wife of one year, Leslie, was charged with second-degree murder.

Mrs. McLean has been held at Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre since the murder.

The trial is unusual in that a Champion reporter is expected to testify later this week concerning information she took from Mrs. McLean for a classified ad in the In Memoriam section of the paper.

Investigating police have not told reporter Lisa Tallyn the reasons they want her to testify. It's believed to be one of the few cases in Canadian criminal history a reporter has been forced to testify because of an advertisement she took over the telephone.

Champion lawyer Stuart Robertson said the circumstances regarding the classified ad are unusual and added he intends to register a protest with the court prior to Ms Tallyn's evidence.

The 16-line In Memoriam appeared in the Friday Nov. 25 edition of The Champion.



Photo by JOHN WARREN

### Racers on ice

There was plenty of action at the Mill Pond during the weekend Winter Carnival. The most fast-paced was provided by the Halton Off Road Racers on Sunday afternoon when they took to the ice on their motorcycles equipped with specially studded tires. See more Carnival photos on page L51.

More than 2,000 attend

## Carnival one of the best ever

By LISA TALLYN

Organizers are touting it as one of the most successful carnivals to date.

Unlike last year, the weather co-operated on Saturday and Sunday, providing sunny skies on both days of the annual event. The Mill Pond was packed with skaters and spectators. It's estimated that 2,000 people came out for carnival festivities.

Organizer Dot Gould wondered at one point if the ice could withstand the crowd.

The carnival got off to a quiet start Friday with a suchre tournament at the Canadian Legion.

Mayor Gord Krantz acted as master of

ceremonies during the official opening ceremonies Saturday afternoon. Milton's Citizen of the Year, Rose Harrison, crowned carnival princess Crystal Newton and prince Shayne Fergus.

Ice Sculptor Tim Braithwaite immortalized carnival mascot Miltie in ice Saturday afternoon. There was a three-pitch tournament at Rotary Park, and several demonstrations on the Mill Pond.

Hamilton Polar Bear Club member Bruce MacIntosh, of Flamborough, took his annual dip in the frigid waters of the Mill Pond, much to the

• see CARNIVAL on page 3

## Firefighter suffers minor burns while fighting house trailer blaze

Dave Krantz, a full-time firefighter with Milton Fire Department, received second-degree burns to his back when a ceiling in a house trailer collapsed on him.

Milton Fire Department responded to a fire in a trailer at Milton Heights Campground on Friday at 10:09 a.m.

The trailer was fully involved upon their arrival. Firefighters worked inside the trailer to suppress the blaze. The ceiling came down, and pieces of it slipped underneath Mr. Krantz's fire coat.

He was taken to Milton District Hospital, treated and released. A damage estimate has not yet

been set. Deputy Chief Harold Pen-son says the blaze was caused because the owner of the trailer, Eric Anderson, was attempting to thaw the water pipes under the trailer with a blow torch. He noticed smoke coming from the trailer minutes after he had finished with the torch.

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