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The Champion

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Caribbean weather gripping the town

By BRAD REAUME

A dash of jetstream, a pinch of cloudless skys, and Milton finds itself with a Caribbean climate.

The unusual humidity and the slow-moving afternoon thundershowers are typical of tropical weather, according to John Lade of the federal Atmospheric Environment Service. That is precisely where the high pressure system is coming from, he says.

"A high-pressure system above the jetstream is blocking movement of weather systems and giving us the same forecast day after day. We are experiencing the hot and hazy weather of the Gulf of Mexico," Mr. Lade said.

The humidex has reached 38C (101F) for the last four days, though the temperature has only reached 31C (88F).

The humidex measures a combination of temperature and humidity. Today the heat wave has broken and temperatures are only expected to reach 25C (77F). Normal afternoon highs for this time of year are 26C, Mr. Lade said.

The Ice Cream Shoppe at the Acorn Tea Room on Martin Street was doing a brisk business all week. So were local pools.

Mr. Lade says the slow-moving showers are unusual and responsible for the extreme downpours recorded this week. There was 100 millimetres of rain in one hour in Hamilton, and Toronto recorded 21 millimetres in 15 minutes during the week.

Mr. Lade said the flooding experienced in the Windsor area last weekend was due to the same thundershower effect.

The showers start when the humidity reaches 100 per cent. The air cannot hold the moisture any longer and it rains.

"The temperature drops about five degrees after the rain ends but about two hours later it goes up again and then it feels even more uncomfortable because of the added moisture," Mr. Lade said.

Temperatures are expected to stay in the 25C range with sunny skys for the entire weekend. The tropical front has moved out and prairie air has moved into our area, bringing drier air and cooler temperatures.



Robert Lewis Adams

Canada-wide alert for fugitive

Robert Lewis Adams, 25, of Oakville is still at large. Mr. Adams escaped police custody Tuesday while being transported to Milton provincial court from Hamilton Wentworth Detention Centre.

A Canada-wide warrant has been issued for his arrest. He is considered violent.

Mr. Adams was shackled and in handcuffs in the back of a police van when he forced his way out, jumping from the van when it came to a stop at a Carlisle intersection, according to police. Mr. Adams was seen by on-lookers as he escaped but they did not report the incident until later, despite the fact that the van was marked as a police vehicle.

The van arrived in Milton before police knew of the escape.

Mr. Adams is described as white, 5' 9", 191 pounds, with red hair, blue eyes, and a red beard and moustache.

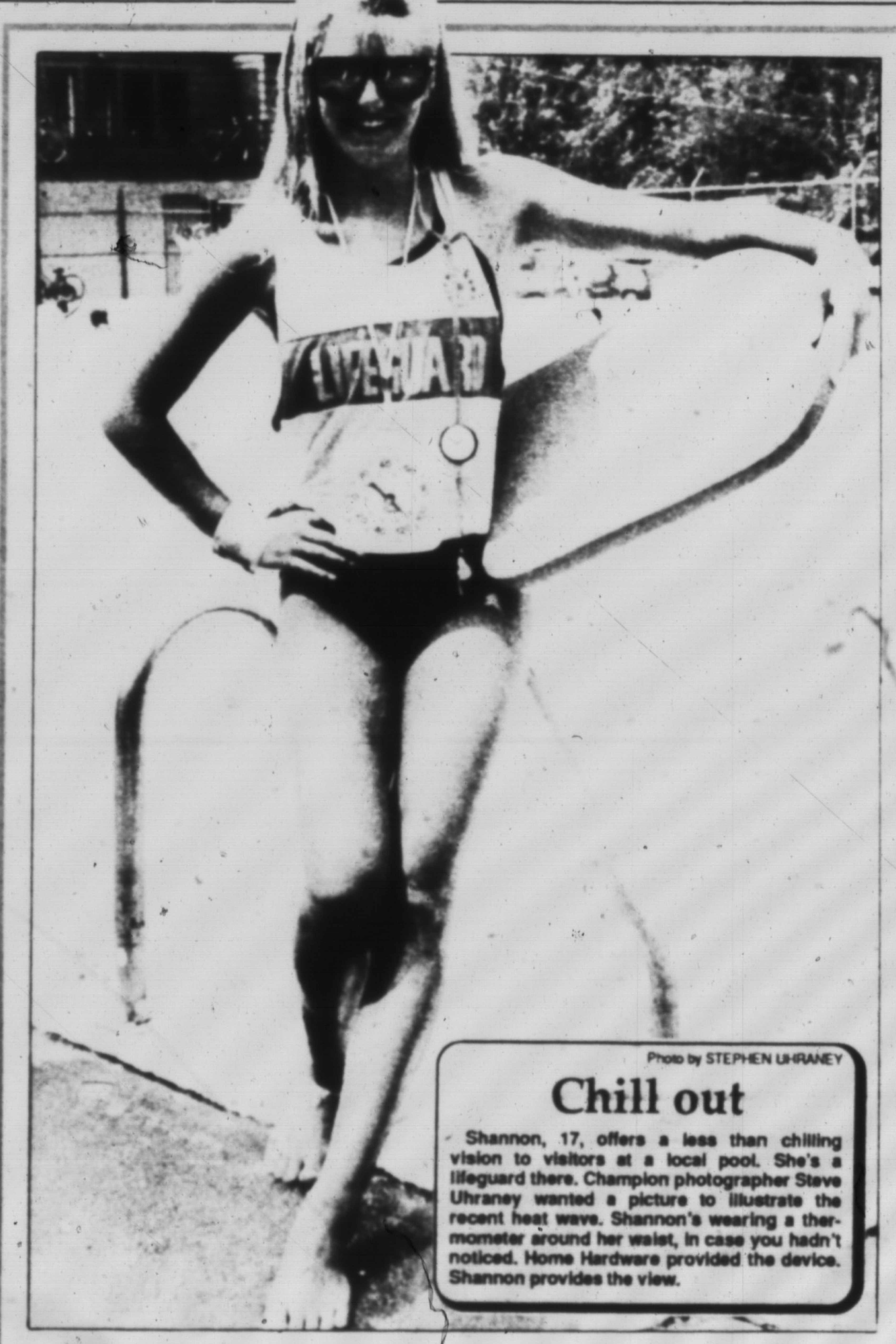


Photo by STEPHEN UHRANEY

Chill out

Shannon, 17, offers a less than chilling vision to visitors at a local pool. She's a lifeguard there. Champion photographer Steve Uhraney wanted a picture to illustrate the recent heat wave. Shannon's wearing a thermometer around her waist, in case you hadn't noticed. Home Hardware provided the device. Shannon provides the view.

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