



### HILARY BROWN

CBC broadcaster  
speaks at  
high school  
— 4



### SPORTS

Juniors blank  
Lord Elgin 35-0  
in football  
— 11



### INSIDE

Opinion ..... 6  
Dateline ..... 7  
Sports ..... 11-13  
Classified ... 14-18

# The Canadian Champion

Weekend edition

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Photo by STEVE UHANEY

## A cross-country crowd

Milton elementary school students participated in the Halton County Elementary School Cross Country Championships held at Bronte Creek Provincial park Wednesday. Results will be published in Wednesday's sports section.

## Woman recounts husband's AIDS' death

By BRAD REAUME

Oct. 16-22 is AIDS Awareness Week in Ontario.

Wednesday, the health and social services committee of Halton region had a chance to speak with Karen Donnan, 37, whose husband Blair died of AIDS.

The Toronto woman said financial help was lacking in the province and that awareness was low.

"OHIP didn't cover the drugs that were necessary," she said. "They cost \$2,500 per month. Disability funds were inadequate. They take five months to process. We got the first cheque one month after Blair died."

"I'll never know for sure where it came from. It might have been from Blair or from a time in my life when I might have been a little more promiscuous."

"They" say they don't know how long the virus stays in the body. We just don't know enough about it."

Ms Donnan said the disease has moved into the mainstream of society. She and her husband were a normal couple, she said, as she showed family pictures to the assembled councillors.

"AIDS education is very impersonal. If you don't talk to people with AIDS, it doesn't hit home," Ms Donnan said.

"Many of the current groups for education and support are for drug users and gay men, the first groups to be affected by the disease. We didn't feel comfortable using those services."

According to Ms Donnan, people are dying in Ontario at the rate of one per week. Councillor Ralph Scholtens of Burlington asked Ms Donnan about his contention that the region should be warning people not to adopt high-risk behaviour, so-called "lifestyle education." She said that is impossible. "The facts of life are that people are going to do those things which might put them at risk," she said. "I don't think you can educate a lifestyle."

— see AIDS on page 2

## Maplehurst dispute escalating quickly: MPP

By ROB KELLY



MPP Walt Elliot

Halton North MPP Walt Elliot says he has been negotiating quietly behind the scenes for prison guards now mired in a labour dispute with the province, but because of actions earlier this week at Queen's Park "things are escalating a little faster than I thought they would."

Wednesday approximately 200 correctional officers demonstrated at Queen's Park to voice their dissatisfaction with progress on a new contract. The officers have been without a contract since

December, 1988 and the matter is headed toward arbitration amid rumors from the guards that a strike could occur within a month.

Included in the 4,100-member Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) bargaining bloc are all the officers at Maplehurst Correctional Centre in Milton.

Mr. Elliot said he has drafted a letter to Corrections Minister Richard Patten urging action on two fronts so as to reassure the Maplehurst officers in his con-

stituency. In the letter, the Halton North MPP said he asks for clarification on the question of increased prison populations, and advocates a negotiated settlement on a new pension package.

In Milton, 32 new prisoners are to be added to the current 380 at Maplehurst by double-bunking in some cells. Local 234 (Maplehurst) OPSEU vice-president John Klonowski said the prison will become "a powder keg" under those circumstances.

— see DISPUTE on page 5

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