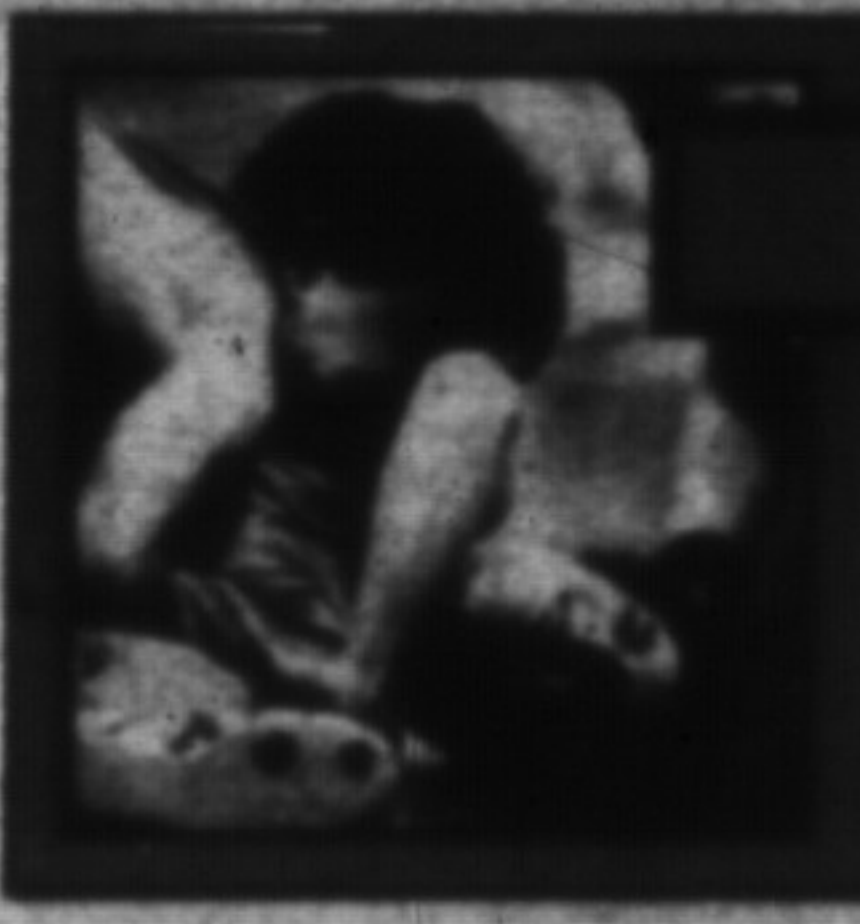
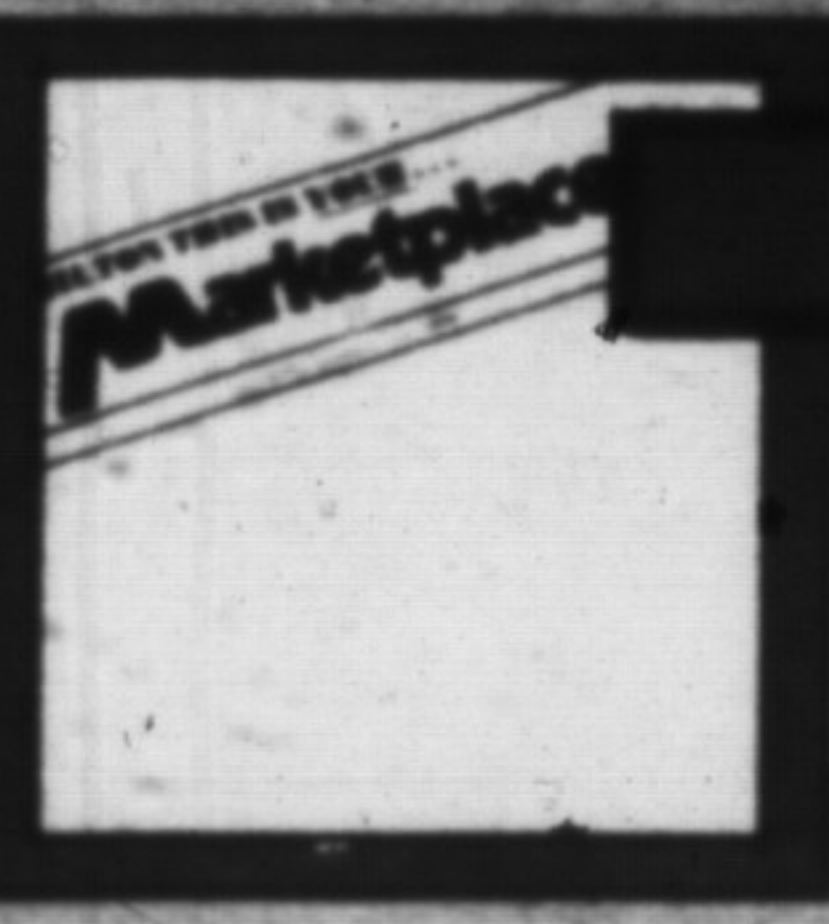




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# The Canadian Champion

Weekend edition

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## Why the long face?

Photo by JON BLACKER

No one is more upset over the cancellation of Sunday's Milton Winter Carnival than its organizer Barb Robb, recreation co-ordinator for the Town's leisure services department. She's enjoying the warm weather, though, even if it is the reason for the annual event's demise.

## Halton wants more cop budget control

By NORM NELSON

A 15 per cent budget hike requested by regional police in Halton has prompted regional council to petition the province for more control over the police.

However, the thought of municipalities again having direct jurisdiction over police matters horrifies Oakville councillor Fred Oliver, who is one of two regional representatives on the police commission (the other three are appointed by the province).

Such was the case, he said, prior to the introduction of the first police commission in old Halton County in the early 1960s. "There was nothing but problems," he said.

Some politicians back then, he said, did a "yeoman's job interfering with the police."

"It would be a step back to allow politicians to gain control of the police department."

The police commission, which is responsible for the development of policy and budget, approved a 15 per cent increase that will see the Halton Regional Police Force budget rise to \$31.6 million from the \$27.6 million budgeted last year.

The recommendation approved at Wednesday's council meeting calls for the police commission to be composed of seven members, with the balance tipped in favor of the region — four from regional council and three appointed by the province.

Halton's other representative on the police commission, Burlington councillor James Grieve, also could not "support police service under direct control of local politicians."

However, one aspect of the motion he did agree with was increasing the number of members on the board so that all four Halton municipalities could be represented by an elected official.

Milton and Halton Hills, he added, "unfortunately have no elected representation on the police commission." (Milton is represented by a provincially appointed member, Jim Watson of Campbellville).

In initiating the motion, Oakville councillor John Graham noted that more than half of the tax supported budget of the region goes towards police services, and that "regional councillors continue to be accountable in elections for a budget which they cannot control."

Currently, the only appeal route for the police budget is to the Ontario Police Commission (OPC). And Mr. Graham thinks that body is hardly a fair judge when its already announced support for an increase in police officers for the Halton force. "The appeal body has already dictated a decision," he said.

• see POLICE on page 5

## Winter Carnival cancelled

By KAREN SMITH

Warm weather has cancelled the 1990 Milton Winter Carnival.

Unsafe conditions due to mild temperatures are the main factors in the Town's decision to call off the traditional event, which had been scheduled for Sunday at Rotary Park and the Mill Pond.

"The Mill Pond is not safe for groups of people to be on," said Barb Robb, recreation co-ordinator for the Town's leisure services department.

Other factors in the cancellation include the soft and mushy surface of the grounds at Rotary Park. Crowds of people walking through the park would severely damage the surface of the baseball diamonds, added Ms Robb.

She also said the spring-like weather takes away people's enthusiasm for a winter carnival.

• see CARNIVAL on page 8



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