



**CHALLENGE**

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**SPORTS**

Sheree Loughlin leads Milton Springers — 15

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# The Canadian Champion

Weekend edition

A Metroland Community Newspaper serving the town of Milton

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52 PAGES

## Teacher denies sex charges in his testimony

A Halton high school teacher has testified that he never touched female students in a sexual manner, though he touched some of them in class and made remarks that he regrets.

"Did you ever touch any of these female students in a sexual manner?" asked defence lawyer Peter Waldmann. E. C. Drury High School teacher Ron Nelson, who is under suspension from teaching, said he did not, then added; "I have too much at stake and too much respect for the kids."

Under cross-examination by Halton Assistant Crown Attorney Laurie Vechter, Mr. Nelson agreed that some of his remarks did not convey respect for the students.

One complainant, now 20 years old, told district court Judge James Carnwath that after she had been absent a day from his restaurant services class, Mr. Nelson asked her if she got "laid last night." Mr. Nelson testified that he made the statement to the girl in the heat of the moment and pressure of the job. "I shouldn't have said that."

Mr. Nelson did not recall making some of the remarks, but added that they would have been made in a humorous context. He denied making other remarks.

Friends and superiors of Mr. Nelson testified that they would not ex-

pect him to make those kinds of remarks. He was also described by adults as being honest, generous, and caring. Don Baker, a former principal at Georgetown District High School, said Mr. Nelson was "very straightforward", as well as trustworthy and honest.

Mr. Nelson, 52, has pleaded not guilty to 1988 charges of sexual assault and sexual interference involving the students. Five young women have testified for the Crown. Their identities are concealed by court order.

Under cross-examination by the Crown, Mr. Nelson said his touching of the students was done innocently and has been misinterpreted. Specifically, Mr. Nelson denied grabbing a student's breast and rubbing the buttocks of other students.

Judge Carnwath heard Mr. Nelson, who also taught machine shop at the Georgetown high school for 16 years, repeatedly deny suggestions that he told students about sexual activities with his wife. Two of the complainants testified since the trial started Monday that he did tell them about what he and his wife did on weekends.

"I found going to a vocational setting I had to come down almost to the kids' level to get them to respond," Mr. Nelson said. Students told teachers personal information about themselves and joked in class, he added. A complainant gave Mr. Nelson a list of jokes, court has been told.

Mr. Nelson said he found through

• see TRIAL on page 12



That sounds right

Milton Chronicle photo by [unreadable] prepared for his trial appearance with the group in [unreadable] this week. The Spring Concert takes place at St. John's Anglican Church, 2500 [unreadable] Street, on two nights, Friday May 25 and Saturday May 26. Tickets can be purchased at Georgetown's [unreadable] at 11 Pegg's in Milton Mall, or by calling 875-2797. They should also be available at the [unreadable].

**With a bang**

The Campbellville and District Lions Club will celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday with a bang Monday night.

The organization will host a fireworks display at Kelso Conservation Area. Gates open at 6 p.m. and fireworks start at dusk.

Entertainment for the kids and a refreshment booth will also be part of the event. The cost is \$7 per car load.

The Lions Club has sponsored the fireworks display for the last eight years. Proceeds go to local community projects.

**Spring Extravaganza**

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