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## Thousands jam parks for Canada Day celebration



Don't drop it - Julie Van Cedar, 14, was among thousands who celebrated Canada Day at Rotary Park Sunday. Julie particularly enjoyed the egg toss.

Rain which fell during opening ceremonies of Milton's Canada Day festivities Sunday didn't stop thousands of residents from celebrating.

Visitors packed Rotary Park and the Mill Pond in recognition of Canada's 123rd birthday.

"It was really exciting," said organizer Barb Robb of the Town's leisure services department. "The park was full. It looked like a zoo."

There was something for everyone. People browsed through the environmental awareness fair, played bingo, and were entertained by various acts including a magician, Dixieland band and the Milton Choristers.

Children enjoyed a balloon artist and supervised playground full of various

games and activities.

Fireworks which ended the celebration "came off without a hitch," Ms Robb added. The theme this year was: Conserving our Native Land - A gift for the future.

Meanwhile, at the Halton Region Museum, Miltonians witnessed the excitement of military action from the War of 1812.

The theme of early settlement came alive with the Fifth Lincoln Militia Historical Society, the Upper Canada Living History Association and the local Heritage Handweavers group.

Kites flew at the Ontario Agricultural Museum. Its Canada Day celebrations included a country church service, 19th century games and strawberry social.



No razors needed - These girls may look like they're ready to shave their heads, but actually they're participating in shaving cream sculpturing at Rotary Park on Canada Day. From left to right are Lisa Johnston, Kelly Young and Michelle Sutherland.

**Elliot says residents . . .**      **. . . vote with their pocketbooks**

## MPP expects courts to rule out open Sunday shopping



**By ROB KELLY**

Halton North MPP Walt Elliot still believes that the Province will have its Sunday shopping law upheld once the case is considered in Canada's Supreme Court.

And he also thinks that represents what people want in Milton. "When the law was passed I felt very strongly that our area wanted more closedness than openness. I thought it was a good attempt at maintaining the status quo."

Provincial Sunday shopping legislation which gave regional municipalities the power to grant as many exemptions as they wished still recognized Sunday as a common pause day, at least until last week.

Following an appeal launched by several large grocery chains who wish to open Sundays without having to chance obtaining exemptions, the Ontario Court of Appeal struck down the Sunday legislation as unconstitutional.

**Pause days**

The court said it discriminates against those who don't see Sundays as religious pause days.

Mr. Elliot hopes the Supreme Court will rule that "what the first judge says is wrong."

However, he hedged when asked if he felt such a ruling is a safe bet. "I think it's premature to speculate.

The best solution was the one that

was in place," Mr. Elliot continued. "I think this constituency wants it more closed than open."

Originally the government had supported the concept of loosening Sunday shopping rules across the board, Mr. Elliot said, but had abandoned that thrust in face of public opposition.

The "35 to 40" MPPs from rural Ontario, of which he counts himself as one, were particularly sensitive to a backlash in their communities, he added. "Small town Ontario really didn't want Sunday shopping."

Although many politicians and the chambers of commerce in both Milton and Halton Hills spoke against Sunday shopping, Mr. Elliot acknowledged that

people will vote on the issue with their pocketbooks, and that so far opposition to Sunday openings has less than a ringing mandate.

**Go shopping after church**

If people who said they opposed the freer marketplace "walk to the store and buy stuff (on Sundays) they are saying one thing and doing another," the MPP contended.

Churches too "should be grabbing the bull by the horns" (since they often "led the charge" against Sunday shopping, Mr. Elliot added.

The church position is headed "if parishioners are shopping when they're going home Sundays."