

OPP help kids see Maple Leafs' game

Milton kids can win a chance to attend a Toronto Maple Leafs hockey game with the Ontario Provincial Police.

The Milton Detachment together with Kellogg's Canada Inc. is taking part in the OPP's Police Law and Youth (P.L.A.Y.) Program.

Youths (under the age of 16 years) are invited to fill out a ballot at the Milton Detachment, 203 Steeles Ave. E., Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or request one from an officer on patrol.

Ballots must be returned by February 8 and the draw will take place February 16. The winner will be accompanied by an OPP officer to the Maple Leaf Gardens Feb. 29 when Toronto takes on the Chicago Black Hawks.

SOFTBALL

Interested in playing softball Sunday mornings this summer?

Milton Jaycees are looking for players to round out their team, you play in the Service Club League.

Come to a meeting
THURSDAY JANUARY 16th
at 7:30 pm

3153 Steeles Ave. W. #3
876-1829
878-4496

Big jump in welfare

from WELFARE on page 1
sures on the welfare system.

Other points in the report included the following:

- There are 891 people on a waiting list to obtain government-subsidized child care in Halton.

- Last year 55 per cent of the people on welfare were considered employable — able and willing to work but unable to find jobs. That ratio has risen to 65 per cent.

- The turnover rate in the system — the number of people getting off welfare at any given time — had decreased to 37 per cent by

November of 1991, as compared to 48 per cent in November of 1990.

Halton is fourth in a list of 12 regional-type government jurisdictions across Ontario when it comes to percentage increases in welfare claims.

From January to October of 1991 Halton's caseload rose by 28.7 per cent.

Only York, Peel and Hamilton-Wentworth regions experienced higher increases.

Affluent York, northeast of Toronto, was hardest hit, with a 42.8 per cent increase.

GRAND OPENING SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 1-4 PM



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212 MAIN STREET MILTON

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Evening Classes — Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Daytime — Workshop • Children's Time — Optional

Hours: Monday 2 p.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Wednesday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Thursday & Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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SAVE \$170

- Seats 3-4
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- Hard Cover
- Spa Mate 1000
- Spa Light
- 11 Colours

\$3,395⁰⁰

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CAPRI II



SAVE \$900

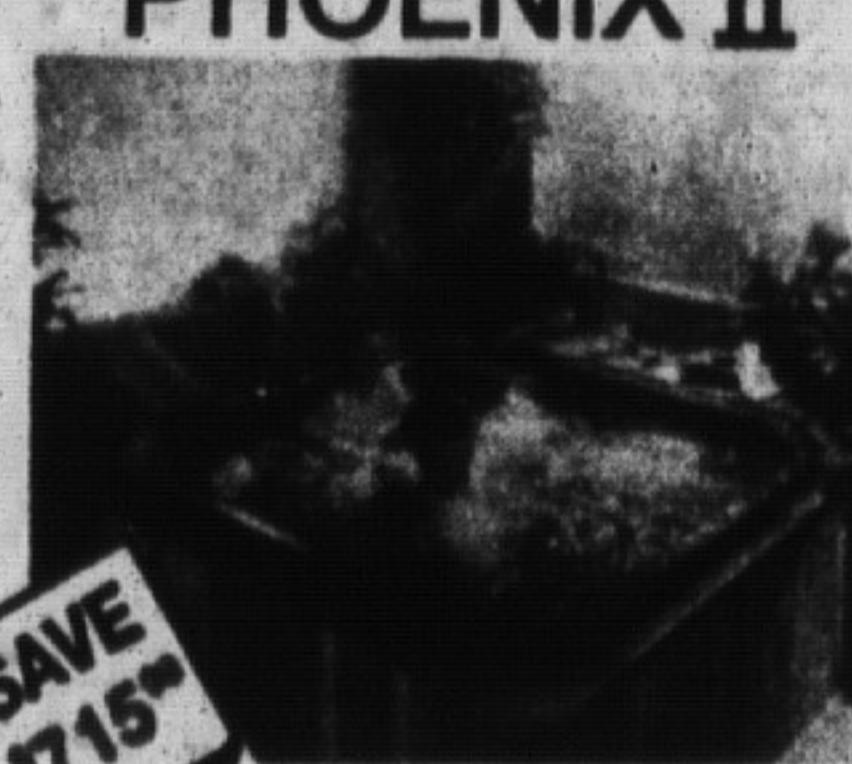
- Seats 5-6, 34" Deep
- Spa Equipment
- 6 Adjustable Jets
- Floating Cover
- Available ONLY in Gray, Bone or Red

\$2,595⁰⁰

(While quantities last)

Reg. \$3,495⁰⁰

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SAVE \$715

- Seats 5-6
- Cedar Skirt
- Hardcover
- Spa Mate 1000
- Turbo Jet
- Spa Light
- 11 Colours

\$4,195⁰⁰

Reg. \$4,910⁰⁰

Free

SPA VAC AND
CHROME TRIM KIT WITH
EVERY SPA PURCHASED
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OFFER VALID UNTIL 4:00 PM
MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1992

COME SEE OUR SHOWROOM FOR MORE SPA SPECIALS AND AVAILABLE COLOUR SELECTIONS

HALTON POOLS N' SPAS

845 MAIN ST. E.

878-7087

HOURS:
MON. - SAT. 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

878-8770

Councillor calls for welfare fraud police

By ROB KELLY

Ever-escalating welfare costs — a financial tempest that seems to be still gathering momentum — have prompted Burlington regional councillor Doug Greenaway to renew his call for a welfare fraud claims investigator in Halton.

Mr. Greenaway was frustrated by what he saw as opposition to hiring the investigator from Halton's social services department. He told Halton's health and social services committee Monday he didn't think he'd get the information he wanted on the subject because "staff is resistant to it."

Burlington councillor Ralph Scholtens, the committee chairman, was mildly taken aback by Mr. Greenaway's stance. "Why would you say that?" Mr. Scholtens added that he was "not so sure it's totally fair" to make such a suggestion.

Bonnie Ewart, Halton's social services commissioner, moved quickly to smooth over the situation. "I'm sorry if we sounded resistant," she told councillor Greenaway. "That certainly isn't our intent." Social services staff people "want an investigator too," she stressed, but "it's a question of priority, not resistance."

There are roughly 3,000 welfare cases in Halton (each case may be a whole family). Last summer Halton hired 10 new employees simply to cope with the mounting workload. Ms Ewart views managing the current caseload as a more pressing demand than hiring someone to investigate possible fraudulent claims.

Having an investigator is "important" she said, but what "has to be in place first" is an adequate number of caseworkers to process and monitor welfare claims.

Ms Ewart said one method of cost control is to make certain claimants are only getting the benefits they are entitled to if they earn income on top of receiving welfare. Caseworkers oversee the income claimants earn to avoid overpaying the welfare recipients, she said.

Also, Ms Ewart noted, many fraudulent claims are based on "quite masterful" schemes which may require a good deal of legwork to uncover — meaning that the success rate in catching cheaters isn't that high.

Mr. Greenaway said that since he initially brought up the subject of hiring an investigator several weeks ago, "the calls are driving me nuts" from constituents who believe they know someone beating the system.

While statistics show that only two per cent of claimants are cheaters, Mr. Greenaway noted, provincial officials told him the number of abusers is "probably eight per cent", but that they stick to the lower figure because they can't prove the higher one.

With welfare statistics still rising, it's possible that Halton may have to hire even more people to cope with the demand. However, "I'm not willing to support one more person being hired until we get an investigator," councillor Greenaway said. "That's how seriously I view it."

Regional social services staff will prepare a report for the committee on the pros and cons of hiring an investigator.