

NEWSLINES

Earth Week

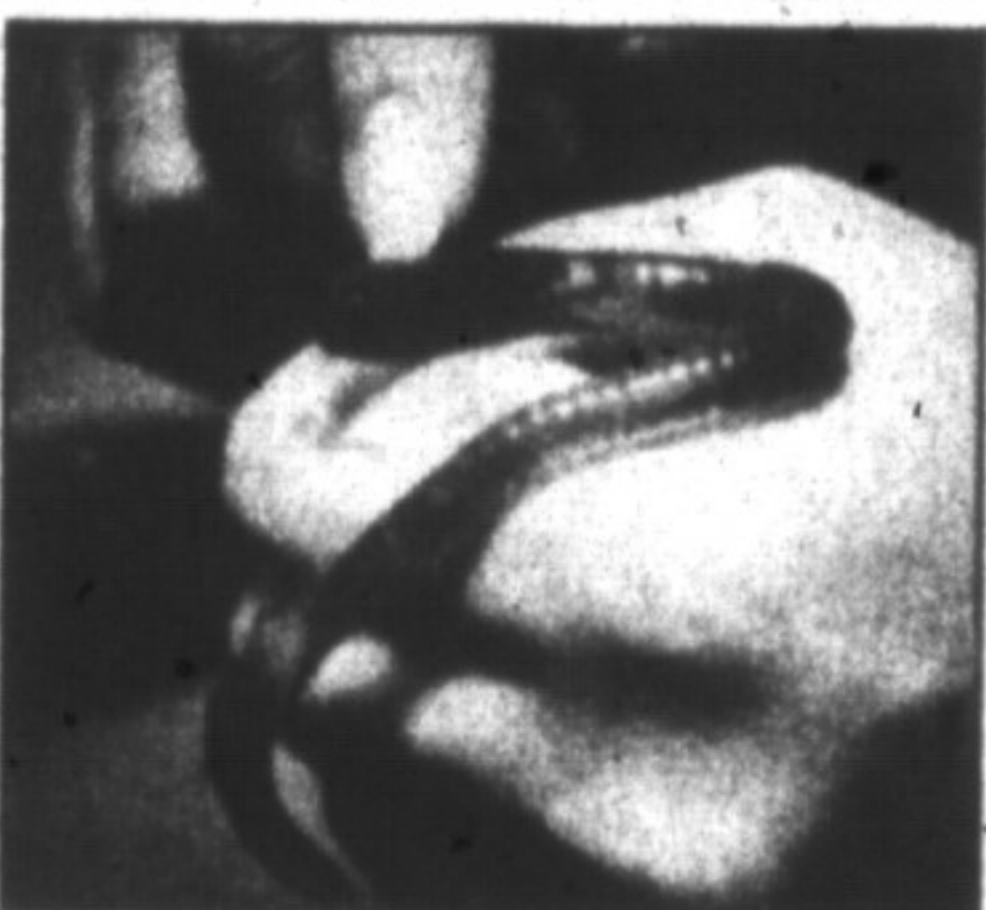
Halton councillors unanimously approved a \$7,500 grant to the Earth Week committee to help pay for its celebrations throughout the region April 20-26. Each municipality will have an information booth set up displaying waste management and environmental materials; plus a festival is to be held in Bronte Park on the last day. Also, a 12-page Earth Week guide will be inserted in a future edition of *The Canadian Champion*.

Landfill preparations

Fernar Paving Ltd., of Rexdale has been hired to install a clay liner, leachate collection systems, roads and other work for Halton's landfill site at a total cost of \$4,004,633. The landfill is located on the west side of Hwy 25, north of Hwy 5.

The work is expected to be completed by the end of the summer as Halton's officials hope to begin using the site in November. In addition, a landfill compactor was purchased for the sum of \$455,400.

INSIDE



If this photograph of the 'Pet of the Week' makes our readers wonder whether or not *The Champion* is taking advantage of this April Fools Day publishing date — they're right. Slimy is featured on page 6 of our special April Fools edition of *The Canadian Champion* in the second section.

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Sweet taste of spring



Photos by VAL ATTANASIO
The maple bush at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre is a popular destination this time of year. The maple syrup program continues until April 12 with demonstrations and samples to treat visitors. Ryan Charette (above) samples some hard maple candy available for sale in the bush.

Crown considers appeal: Teens get probation in fatal crash

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

A Milton crown attorney says she may appeal the decision by a youth court judge who ruled jail terms were unnecessary for two teenaged girls responsible for last summer's car accident which claimed the life of Carly MacNeil.

Seeking open custody for the young offenders now aged 18 and 17, Crown Attorney Laurie Jago said she is "considering making a request for an appeal" in the case which came to an emotional close Friday.

Judge James Fuller said in his 17 years he has never seen two young offenders come before the courts with such high academic achievements and backing from the community.

He gave the 18-year-old — one of two Milton youths sharing operation of the car when the crash occurred — three years probation and ordered her to perform 150 hours of community service work, while the younger girl was sentenced

to one year probation and was ordered to perform 40 hours of community service work.

They are both prohibited from driving during their probationary periods.

Carly's mother, Sandy MacNeil, appeared stunned after the sentencing. She later said she, her husband Ron, and two remaining children Bobbi and Jamie feel the eldest of the two drivers received only "a tap on the hand" for her actions.

"What about my daughter," Mrs. MacNeil said Monday. "She was an honour student. I've had kids tell me she was a role model."

Last June, 16-year-old Carly, a Grade 11 E.C. Drury High School student, died when the car she and five other teenagers (four girls and a boy) were riding in hit a hydro pole and overturned. The others weren't seriously injured.

Celebrating the end of the school year, the group of friends were on their way home from Emerald Lake — a popular Flamborough swimming and picnic area.

Before leaving on their excursion, the youths

approached a Milton man to buy liquor for them. Accompanied by a 12-pack of beer and six pre-mixed alcoholic beverages, the teens drove to the lake at about 1 p.m.

But when it was time to come home, the elder youth, who had borrowed her parents' car for the day, informed her friends she had too much to drink and couldn't drive.

Instead, she operated the standard transmission vehicle's clutch, gas, brake, and stick shift from the front console of the car while a sober youth, who only had her learner's permit, steered. The four other passengers, including Carly, sat in the back seat.

The teens had been driving for about 15 minutes when the driver sitting on the console decided to pass a car full of friends travelling ahead of them on No. 5 Sideroad, east of First Line, in Milton.

She grabbed the wheel and pressed the gas causing the car to go out of control and roll over.

see PROBATION on page 3

Woman assaulted in her home

A Milton mother of two was the victim of a vicious sexual assault by a man posing as a hydro worker Thursday morning.

The 28-year-old Ontario Street woman was home alone with her six-month-old baby when a man knocked at the door claiming to be a water meter reader from the hydro company, police said.

The man went to the basement of the home leaving his unsuspecting victim upstairs. He returned a short time later wearing a red Balaclava and pushed her to the ground. He slapped the woman in the face, sexual assaulted her, and fled in a van, said police.

The suspect is described as white, 27 to 29 years of age, 5'11" to 6', 170 to 180 pounds; with a muscular build, curly shoulder-length dirty blonde hair, and dirty, greasy hands.

He was wearing dark cover-alls, possibly blue or grey, and a dark blue wristband with red stripes.

The vehicle is a full-sized white van with a black stripe across the bottom and antenna on the rear.

The woman was treated for facial injuries at Milton District Hospital and released. The investigation is continuing.

Halton Regional Police are reminding people not to allow strangers into their homes.

Residents should always ask for identification, advised Detective Sergeant Mike Eacrett. "And they should be satisfied with the identification before they let them into their house."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers of Halton or Det. Sgt. Eacrett at 878-5511, ext. 2115.

Call Champion for Merchants' playoff score

We tried, but we can't stop the presses.

The Champion went to press prior to the end of last night's seventh game of the Milton Merchants, Central Ontario Jr. B League final with the Aurora Eagles, at Memorial Arena.

If you call *The Champion* at 878-2341 after 9 a.m. we will be happy to relay the score. Full details of the game will appear in Friday's *Champion*.