

# The Canadian Champion

A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

# Weekend

Volume 8, Number 5

FRIDAY MAY 15, 1992

Serving Milton, Ontario

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## NEWSLINES

### Watering by number

Halton Region's even-odd water restrictions will be in place again this year, to lessen demand on area utility systems and water supplies. They apply to everyone who uses municipal water (not private wells).

Under the regulations, every home or business with an even-numbered address may water lawns on even-numbered days of the month. Odd-numbered address occupants do their sprinkling on odd-numbered days.

For those confused by a townhouse address, such as unit 101, 2 Main Street, the idea is to go by the unit address, so 'unit 101' would water on odd-numbered days.

## INSIDE



### Smart kids

Visitors come away wiser and safer from street-smart demonstration.

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Acting Sergeant Rick Ferguson checks a truck's load to ensure the vehicle isn't hauling more than the posted weight restrictions. Halton Regional Police Service has acquired portable weigh scales as part of a crackdown on over-weight trucks.

## Police scales cut heavy-weights down to size

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

The scales of justice tilted in favour of Halton police during recent roadside checks for over-weight loads on trucks.

Over the last two months, police charged 17 drivers in the Milton area for overloading their rigs, while 15 truckers squeaked by with warnings, said Acting Sergeant Rick Ferguson.

Statistics show that about 63 per cent of trucks checked by police during March and April were over legal load limits — in line with numbers recorded during the previous four months.

From November last year to February, 68 per cent of trucks stopped by police were carrying overweight loads. Tickets issued totalled fines for thousands of dollars.

The police's March-April reduced load period blitz focused in north Halton — a haven for sand and gravel quarry operations which is accompanied by an abundance of truck traffic.

Hauling more than the posted weight restrictions is a hazard for the maintenance of roads — especially during the spring thaw — and may threaten the lives of motorists, said Acting Sgt. Ferguson.

He explained overweight loads cause "wear and tear on trucks' braking systems", which could result in an unsafe vehicle. The reason many truckers drive with illegal loads is simple, according to the regional traffic officer.

"Money," he said. "They get paid by the tonnage."

Drivers affected by the recession may also be more tempted to overload their rigs, Acting Sgt. Ferguson added.

Equipped with four weigh scales worth

\$16,000, police set up roadside spot checks in "problem areas" throughout March and April. The crackdown will continue, he said.

The Halton Police Service is the first police force in the province to own their own scales, which were purchased with funding from Halton Region and the four area municipalities.

Fines range from \$58.75 to \$303.75 depending on the extent of the overload. Repeat offences could result in a driving suspension on a given vehicle.

## Stampede roars into town May 20

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

The Milton Lions Club anticipates crowds from all over southern Ontario will come to town for its five-day Exhibition and Stampede which gets underway Wednesday.

Organizers have their fingers crossed that the first-of-its-kind event at the fairgrounds May 20-24 will attract audiences from as far as Kitchener. About 25,000 people are expected to pass through the gates.

The Lions Club Exhibition and Stampede will allow patrons a chance to try an adventurous bungee jump or, for those who prefer more down to earth activities, take in a country and western band.

Members of the local service club decided a stampede-style event would give residents a diverse spring alternative to Milton's major fall and summer attractions, said Lions Club secretary Paul Klingender.

"It's something that's never been tried in Milton," he said.

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