

# The Canadian Champion

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# Weekend

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## NEWSLINES

### Las Vegas for a night

Gambling casinos may not yet be legal in Ontario but that doesn't mean area residents have to miss out on Las Vegas-style entertainment.

Tickets are now available for the second annual Las Vegas Night at Pineland Farm in Hornby. The fundraiser for the new leisure centre is set for Saturday, Sept. 12 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

In addition to games tables and a unique breed of horse racing, entertainment will be provided by vocalist Lesley Andrew, accompanied by Judy Hunter. The popular Audrey Meredith dancers will keep spirits high with presentations through the night.

The \$20 tickets, available at Town Hall, also serve as draw ballots for a trip to Las Vegas supplied by Uniglobe Can-Travel at Milton Mall.

## INSIDE



Fred Eirich's winning attitude will be carried on to university this fall. He's met the challenge of living with the effects of cerebral palsy and has his future mapped out.

See page 10

### Features

Dateline ..... 12

Sports ..... 13-14

Classified ..... 17-19

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### All smiles

Kimberly Ames, 4, is all smiles after mastering a kicking drill with the help of swim instructor Sarah Scott and a flutter board. The 'orange' class swimmers (4 to 6 years) were put through their paces — floating, kicking and underwater skills — at Rotary Park pool Wednesday morning.

Photo by Graham Paine



## Halton has \$18 million to get people working

### Business to create hundreds of jobs with government seed money

By ROB KELLY  
The Champion

The chairman of Halton Region's social services committee says the Ontario government has given him some tools to help rebuild people's lives.

Ralph Scholtens expects 18 million provincial dollars will flow into Halton for the Jobs Ontario employee hiring and training fund recently created by Queen's Park.

In a press conference at Halton Region's administrative centre in Oakville last Friday, Mr. Scholtens and Halton North MPP Noel Duignan unveiled the ambitious job creation strategy. The provincial government will spend \$1.1 billion on it over the next three years, and expects the money will lead to 90,000 new jobs.

Halton Region has been chosen to administer the program in this area. "I'm excited about this, just delighted," Mr. Scholtens told gathered reporters.

The money is geared toward helping those who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits or are on welfare.

"You think about the human side," Mr. Scholtens said. "Think about the broken lives. The people who sit at home — they're not lazy. How would you like to have a holiday for two years in the prime of your life? That's a disaster."

see \$18 MILLION on page 3

## Local welfare cheaters target of investigations

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

Milton is next on the list for investigators cracking down on fraudulent welfare claims.

Similar action to fraud charges laid against a Burlington woman earlier this week is expected to follow in Milton, said Ellis Katsof, the Region's acting commissioner of social services.

Between 4 and 8 per cent of Ontario welfare recipients are cheating on their claims, estimated Mr. Katsof. But he couldn't say how many of the culprits live in Halton.

"We don't have specific data in Halton to say where we fit within that," he said.

The amount of money the cheaters are costing taxpayers is also unknown, he said. However, the Region recovered \$342,000 lost through false welfare claims last year, he said. "We have the individuals pay back the Region."

In June, the Region hired an eligibility review officer to investigate suspicious claims. A former Toronto and Vancouver police officer, Peter Foulds works with police on investigations, mostly sharing information.

A common type of welfare fraud, said Mr. Kat-

sof, occurs when recipients fail to claim income or that of their spouse. "They (men) neglect to tell us that their wife is working."

While Metropolitan Toronto set up a hotline nick-named "snitch line" for citizens to report welfare recipients they believed were cheating the system, such a measure isn't required in Halton, said Mr. Katsof.

He said citizens with information to report can "easily phone up our office and raise the issue."

Mr. Katsof said charges related to a fraudulent welfare claim in Milton are expected to be laid within a week.

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