

# The Canadian Echo

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## The cat's meow

Willow, a blue point Belinese cat is a girl's best friend, according to Caitlin Lichty. Caitlin and her mom were showing their cats at the No Name Cat Show at Bishop Reding over the weekend. Persians (inset) were among the kittens for sale at the show. There were 180 cats entered each day of the national event.

Photos by Graham Paine

## NEWSLINES

### Purse-snatch trial delayed

The trial of a Milton man charged in connection with a purse-snatching has been moved to November 30 while police arrest a witness who failed to appear in court.

Mark Hostrawser, charged with robbery after a cyclist stole a purse from a 91-year-old woman who was walking behind a Main Street plaza September 23, will appear in court Monday.

The trial, which was originally scheduled for November 23, was postponed when the Crown's key witness subpoenaed to attend court in the case failed to show up. He has since been arrested.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hostrawser, 25, of Miles Street is in custody while awaiting trial. He was refused bail after being arrested October 14.

The elderly victim was walking behind Carriage Square toward Martin Street to pay a bill at a nearby bank when the cyclist rode up from behind and grabbed her purse.

The woman was hysterical after the incident. She injured her wrist when the strap was pulled from her hand, and was taken to hospital by ambulance. Her purse contained \$25.

## Police believe escaped convicts left town

Halton police say it's unlikely two prisoners who escaped from Maplehurst Correctional Centre Friday are still in this area.

"They wouldn't stick around," said Detective Constable Kevin McCart who is investigating the case.

Three convicts considered dangerous slipped through a vent in the roof of the medium-security jail at about 1 p.m.

One of the prisoners, Andrew Bartlett, 19, is back in custody after being picked up by police

Sunday on a highway near London.

Donald Francoere, 33, previously of Montreal and Peter White, 24, known to visit locations in Toronto and Brampton, are still at large.

Mr. Francoere was serving time for robbery, possession of stolen property, and attempt to obstruct justice, while Mr. White was convicted of mischief and break and enter.

Search dogs tracked the convicts to a nearby industrial area where police believe they dis-

carded their prison clothes and stole a green 1990 Ford pick-up truck bearing licence plate VC3 307.

Both men missing are white. Mr. Francoere is also described as 5'8", 184 pounds, with short, light brown hair and blue eyes. Mr. White is 5'10", 184 pounds, with short, light-coloured hair and green eyes.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Keith Woudstra at 878-5511, ext. 2115.

## Drizzle doesn't deter Santa's fans

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

Thousands came out to see Santa come to town Saturday.

Despite the damp, overcast day, more than 8,000 people lined up along downtown streets for the 1992 Milton Santa Claus Parade.

"I think the parade went over quite well," said Paddy Townson of the volunteer organizing committee. "There were some really good floats. The weather could have been better, but then again it could have been a lot worse."

Rain started to drizzle down just after Santa left the fairgrounds, the starting point of the 2 p.m. parade, which this year was themed a fairy tale Christmas.

The recession may have also put a damper on the event. Ms



Santa made a triumphant return to Milton on Sunday. More than 8,000 people lined the parade route.

Townson predicted the parade will fall short of covering its expenses by about \$3,000. Donations are still being accepted and would be appreciated, she said.

The parade included 30 floats • see SANTA on page 12

## MVA means 56% of homeowners get municipal tax break

By ROB KELLY  
The Champion

If market value assessment for Halton Region is approved next week, 56 per cent of Milton homeowners will pay an average of \$239 less in property taxes per year, while 44 per cent will pay on average \$362 more.

As well, Milton overall will be tapped for \$400,000 less in Halton regional and school board taxes, according to new information released at town council's general committee Monday night.

In other developments, the downtown business area will profit somewhat at the expense of Milton Mall, said town finance director Jim McQueen. "The tendency is for downtown taxes to go down and the tendency is for the mall taxes to increase," Mr.

McQueen told councillors.

Milton's only hard-hit sector will be the industrial one. In that area, 73 per cent of businesses or industrially zoned land will see property tax increases averaging \$1,152 per year.

Only 27 per cent of the industrial sector will get a break, but it will be a bigger one. The average decrease is \$2,527.

That worried Ward 1 councillor Rick Day, who warned "the chickens may come home to roost" if higher taxes drive businesses away from investing in, for example, Milton's Highway 401 industrial park under MVA.

Farm land "is getting a real break under market value assessment," Mr. McQueen noted, with 79 per cent of farms enjoying an average \$624 cut while only 21 • see TAX BREAK on page 2

## INSIDE



Milton Choristers present their most ambitious event ever Sunday at Holy Rosary Church. The choir will perform Handel's *Messiah*.

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