

# The Canadian Cha

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Hands up

Four-year-old Shawn MacDonald shows off his inked hands to mom Debbie after playing with fingerprinting ink. The OPP and Childfind will be running an identification booth at Memorial Arena Sunday, Feb. 28 during the benefit hockey game featuring the Milton Women's All-Stars against the OPP Fathers and Sons.

## NEWSLINES

### Hockey player charged with assault

A Burlington hockey player faces assault charges following the February 12 fight at Memorial Arena where a Milton fan was hit in the head with a flying stick.

The game between the Junior A Milton Merchants and Burlington Cougars was just ending when a fight broke out between fans in the stands.

In response to the fight, a player threw his stick into the stands, injuring a Milton fan.

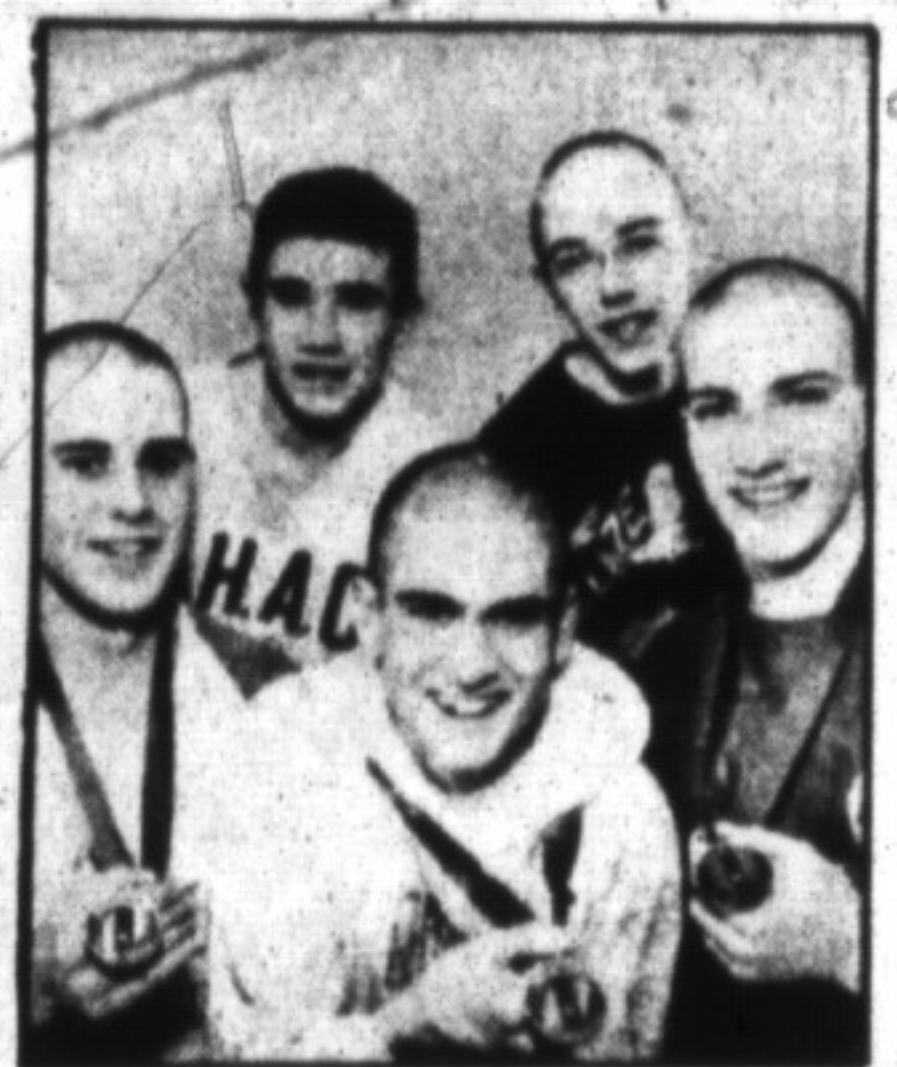
A 20-year-old Millside Drive man received three stitches after the stick slashed his face.

The 10:15 p.m. fight escalated and about 20 fans were involved.

Following an investigation, Halton police charged a 17-year-old Hamilton youth Thursday with assault causing bodily harm and assault with a weapon.

He is scheduled to appear in Milton youth court March 5.

## INSIDE



What these guys lack in hair, they make up for in medals - gold medals, that is.

See Page 16

### Features

- Police ..... 4
- Dateline ..... 13
- Sports ..... 16-20, 23
- Classified ..... 21-23
- Real Estate . RE1-RE8

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## High school gets \$4.7 million facelift

Renovations will greet students this fall at Milton District High School

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

After a six-year wait, Milton District High School is getting the biggest facelift in its history.

Accompanied by a \$4.7 million price tag, upgrading will include a new track and studio

theatre as well as additions to the library and guidance centre.

"Our hope is that it will provide a setting for students to learn into the new century," said school principal Tom Adams.

The currently modest library will have an additional 2,000 square feet of space where students will be able to use modern research

resources such as computers and other electronic equipment.

The new 400-metre track, which will include a new draining system, will be built over the current track using its base. The area will be fenced off.

"All-weather tracks seem to attract motorized  
• see RENOVATIONS on page 3

## Life sentence for murderer

A 37-year-old man was sentenced to life in prison in the Jupe murder of a Halton Hills woman who was shot at her home just north of Milton.

Keith Bettridge shot his girlfriend Kimberly Thompson, 30, in the eye at their rented farmhouse on Eighth Line, north of Steeles Avenue.

He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder at Milton provincial court Thursday, shortly before being sentenced.

Formerly of Brampton, Mr. Bettridge is required to serve 10 years of the sentence before he can apply for parole. The judge banned him indefinitely from owning a firearm.

The couple had just moved to Halton Hills three weeks before the June 26 shooting of Ms Thompson, who has three children.

Mr. Bettridge was arrested the next day at a cottage north of Fenelon Falls.

## Town councillors' expense discrepancies prompt policy review

By ROB KELLY  
The Champion

Mayor Gord Krantz moved quickly to blunt inquiries from Ward 3 councillor Marion Howard about politicians' expenses last week, saying he didn't want to see elected officials inspecting each others' claims.

"I would hope we don't get into that checking on one another. It doesn't work."

Ms Howard's short foray into the subject began with a query about "the greatly differing amounts for conferences and mileage" logged by various councillors.

"I was wondering what the policy was," Ms Howard continued. "Why would mileage costs get to be high? I just don't know what the policy is."

In addition to then warning about checking colleagues, Mr. Krantz defended himself, saying he charged mileage on a "flat rate" and that it was "a bargain as far as the Town is concerned."

Ms Howard said appearances led one to believe "each one of us would have our own individual policy" regarding mileage expenses.

Municipal councillors have a salary-benefits package worth \$12,379 per year, one third of which is tax free. As Mayor, Mr. Krantz receives \$36,915, with the same proportional tax break. In addition, all elected officials may claim conference, travel and other expenses related to municipal business.

The Mayor's job is regarded as full-time  
• see POLICY on page 3