

# The Canadian Ch

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## NEWSLINES

### Gun scare

Anyone who thought they heard gunfire in the area of Robert Baldwin School early yesterday morning was probably right.

Halton Regional Police were told by a caller shortly after 2:30 a.m. that an intoxicated male was seen carrying a large rifle into a park near Robert Baldwin School on Wilson Drive.

Shortly after, a nearby resident called police and reported hearing shots fired.

Police searched the area at 3 a.m. and again in daylight, but found no sign of the man or a gun.

### Anything for kicks

What do a newspaper editor, a retired pro football player and a politician have in common?

None of them know how to play soccer very well, as will likely be painfully evident this Saturday at the downtown Farmer's Market.

While a soccer skills demonstration by the Milton Youth Soccer Club to help kick off the annual United Way fundraising campaign should go reasonably well, it remains to be seen how the follow-up event will unfold.

Former Toronto Argonaut Dan Ferrone, former MPP Walt Elliot and Canadian Champion editor Rob Kelly will, it seems, take shots on a soccer 'campaign goal' while former NHL referee Bruce Hood officiates. The press release that sketched out this promotion also mentioned something about in-line skates...

Whatever happens gets underway around 9:30 a.m. at the intersection of Main and Martin Street.

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### BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP



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## Bomb scare brings swift police action

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

Spectators heard a loud bang and it was all over.

A cardboard box that police feared contained a bomb yesterday morning turned out to be a case of costume jewelry.

A suspicious box was discovered in the south end of the Town Hall parking lot, north of 12 Division police station, by a uniformed officer at 6 a.m.

The package was accompanied by a note that said, "I'm sorry."

Halton Regional Police immediately closed off the area and called in the emergency explosives unit to investigate the strange box, which the officer left closed, said Staff Sergeant Roy Smith.

"You don't play with things that don't look good," he said.

Two members of the unit arrived at the scene with equipment at 8 a.m.

By this time, curious crowds, kept at a distance by police, had gathered in the area. Some residents even set up lawn chairs to watch the action.

Donning a protective suit, Constable Larry Brassard of the explosives unit went to work. With a special device, he blew up the parcel at 9 a.m. in an attempt to disrupt any potential explosives.

Police then knew the incident was a false alarm. The box actually contained a plastic case of costume jewelry that had been stolen in a break-in.

The jewelry had been left outside the police station by an anonymous thief who was returning the property, Staff Sgt. Smith said.

Debris was scattered over a small portion of the parking lot following the explosion.

The Milton Fire Department and an ambulance were on hand in case of an emergency, but fortunately were not needed.

During the three-hour wait, Town Hall staff were allowed access to and from the building through the Victoria Park entrance.

"We allowed access because of the big cement wall there," Staff Sgt. Smith said.

The operation went smooth and safely, said Inspector Keith Gregory.

"Public safety was our main concern. That's why we cordoned off the area to such a large extent."



Photo by GRAHAM PAINÉ

## Klondike days

United Way members (left to right) Vicki Visconti, Trisha Langero and Barb Lafèche "pan for gold" to boost awareness of the September 30 United Way fund raiser dinner and auction at Halton Hills Place. This year's theme is - what else? - a Gold Rush.

## Dinner features offbeat prize

Ticket sales for this year's United Way campaign opening event — the Gold Rush Dinner Auction — are well ahead of last year's, according to volunteer coordinator Vicki Visconti.

"The committee has really been promoting early ticket sales. This night is one of the main events in the annual United Way of Milton fundraising campaign."

The September 30 event features both a live and silent auction, with

another event tailored to a Gold Rush theme. Guests will sift through sand to discover 'nuggets' that will entitle them to door prizes.

Among the auction items will be several works of art and a variety of donated goods and services, including limousine service.

The most innovative donation yet received has been an infrared thermographic scan of your home to detect heat loss, provided by Predictive

Images of Milton.

The gala evening, to be held at Halton Hills Place, gets underway at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30 and features a prime rib dinner, plus dancing to the Laurie Walker Band.

Auction donations are still welcomed and there are dinner tickets available, at \$30 per person.

Call the United Way of Milton at 875-2550 for more information or details.

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