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SERVING MILTON, ONTARIO

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NEWSLINES

Pets must get rabies vaccine

As of January 1, 1995, all dogs and cats in Halton must be vaccinated against rabies. The fine for non-compliance is a \$90 ticket, if a pet owner is caught.

That word comes from the Halton regional health department, which is concerned about domestic pets contracting the disease from wild animals and passing it along to humans. Most human cases arise in this manner.

The problem is heightened by the fact raccoon rabies is steadily approaching southern Ontario from New York state. Although the disease has not yet arrived in the province, cases have been reported only 20 kilometres from the Niagara River in New York.

The disease could reach Ontario raccoons within two years and double the number of animal rabies already in the province, regional officials say.

Fundraising success

More than 200 supporters helped raise \$24,000 for the Children's Assessment and Treatment Centre (CATC) at a fundraising dinner dance in October. The dinner, at Lionhead Golf and Country Club in Brampton, was in aid of families whose children are afflicted by mental and emotional difficulties.

The non-profit CATC is a non-profit agency affiliated with the United Way. Families are served by clinics in Milton, Oakville and Burlington.

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BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP



Call Dan for Fast, Friendly Service!

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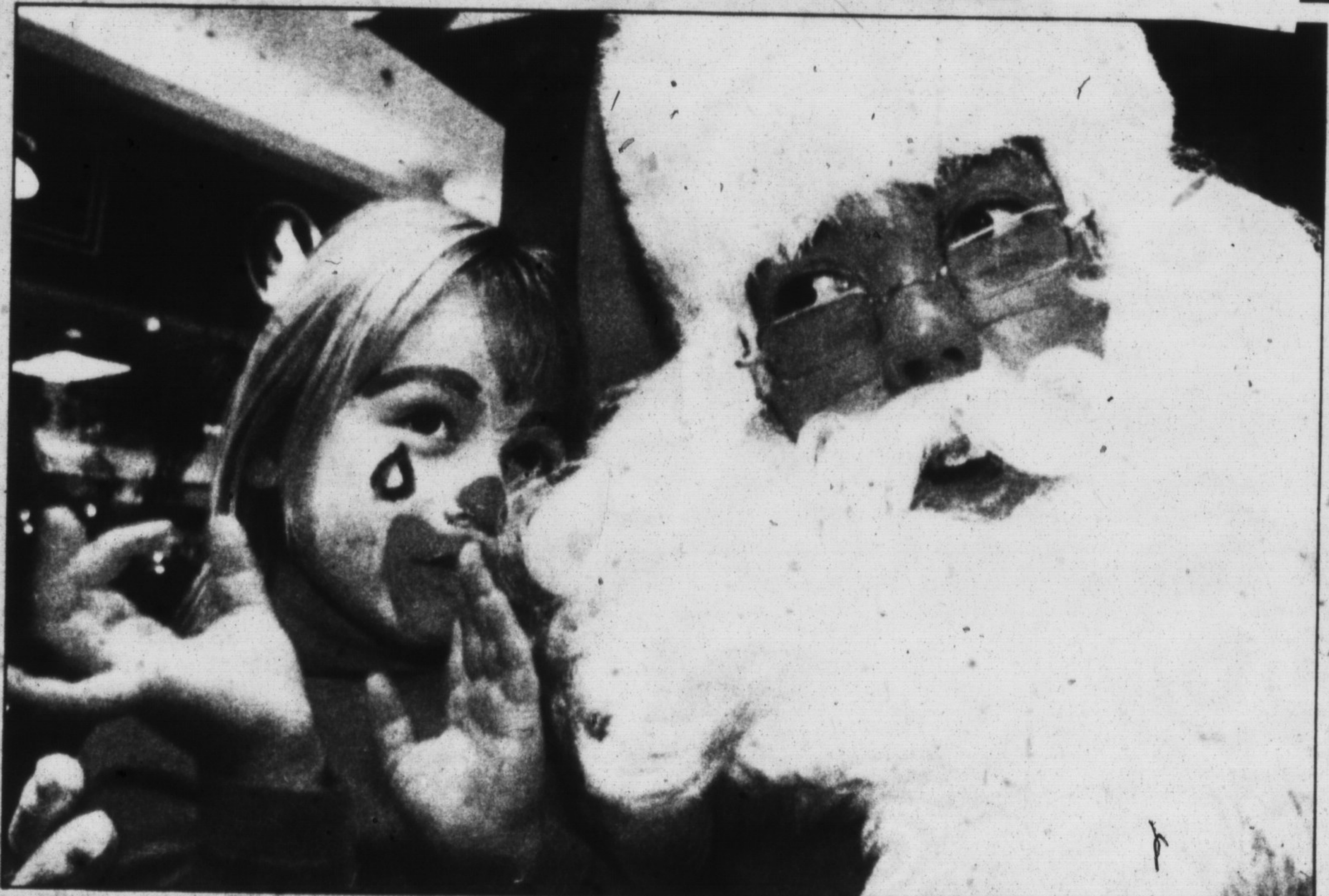


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Santa came to town

Santa Claus arrived in Milton last weekend and one of the first to meet him Saturday afternoon at Milton Mall was four-year-old Jennifer Hartley. He lent a close ear to every detail of Jennifer's Christmas list. On Sunday, he was the star attraction as the annual Santa Claus parade wound its way through the downtown. For more photos see Page 2.

Vandalism worries jump in quiet suburb

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

The neighbourhood of Woodward Avenue and Wilson Drive was peaceful and quiet before trouble-making teenagers recently decided to make it their hangout, area residents say.

Loud and disruptive, a group of 15 to 30 youths have reportedly gathered in the area at night since the beginning of summer and homeowners say they're fed up.

"I find it hard to believe this is happening," said a resident, who wished to remain unidentified for fear of repercussions. "I don't know where their parents are."

She said she kept her windows closed at night this past summer to prevent her young children from hearing the foul language.

The teens, aged between 13 and 15 years, hang out on sidewalks in front of people's homes, in the Becker's store parking lot and on the grounds of Robert Baldwin and St. Peter's schools, residents say.

Many believe the same youths — mostly boys and a few girls — are responsible for the substantial vandalism in the area.

Since September, \$2,300 damage has been

caused to windows at Robert Baldwin. Principal Shirley Scott said at least one window has been smashed every weekend since school started.

Vandals also recently destroyed one of the school's basketball nets, she said, and have left piles of broken beer bottles on the property.

St. Peter's has had the same problem with broken windows, said principal Bud Pelissier.

A Woodward Avenue woman told *The Champion* she has called the police about three times a week since moving to the area in September.

One night a young, frightened boy came knocking on her door for refuge because some kids on bicycles had threatened to beat him up, she said.

The youths hang out in the area every night of week, the woman said, usually until about 10 on weeknights and 11:30 on weekends.

"I know of a number of people who have had them drinking between their homes," she said.

Halton Regional Police are well aware of the problems in the area, according to Detective Sergeant Ron Welsh, and have stepped up patrols. A task force has also been assigned to look at the issue, he said.

However, police hands are tied in most situations, according to officers who recently attended a

meeting of the Milton Community Consultation Committee.

Residents went before the citizens' group, which interacts with police, to complain about problems of vandalism and disturbances in the area.

Unless police catch the youths in the act, the residents were told, they can do little. They must make sure they don't violate the youths' human rights.

Many of the trouble-causers hang out around the trees on park property, residents say, and when they see a cruiser approaching, they scatter.

"The kids know what they can get away with," another Woodward Avenue woman commented.

In response to the situation, Mrs. Scott sent home letters in late October to parents of Robert Baldwin School students, asking them to do the following:

- Report any unlawful act that you are aware of — smashing windows, drinking beer in public places, etc. The police may not be able to respond immediately, but they will answer all calls.

- If you know someone who is committing these acts, report it to the police.
- If you wish to give information anonymously, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-668-5151.

Mrs. Scott said she believes the combined efforts of parents, police and the community are necessary to address the situation. Area residents agree.

AUCTION SALE

Ask for details at participating stores. Items on display across from Lotto Booth.

Hours: Mon - Fri 9:30-9:00, Sat 9:30-8:00, Sun 12:00-5:00

COMMUNITY BAZAAR

Saturday, November 26

Twenty-six local non-profit organizations will be filling the Mall with Baked Goods, Handcrafts and Raffle Tickets.

MILTON MALL

PUPPET SHOWS

Saturdays
11:00, 12:00 & 1:00
See Santa on Thursday - Saturday

55 ONTARIO ST. (905) 878-3900