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Maiden Lane homes doused for third time

Thunderstorms cause flooding in basements

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Severe thunder storms usually send residents of Maiden Lane into their basements.

However, the residents are not running for cover, rather they are checking for water damage.

The low-lying area between Commercial and Charles Streets has had three separate incidents of flooded basements since January, 1995, the latest just last week.

According to Brent Marshall, Halton Region's director of environmental services, an engineering study of the area is underway to determine the exact cause of the flooding problem and to suggest solutions.

"It's a low-lying area," said Mr. Marshall. "The potential problem was recognized when homes were built and sump pumps were installed under the homes."

In a particularly prolonged or intense storm the sump pumps have trouble keeping up with the water flow, according to Mr. Marshall. In addition, power outages, like the one which occurred a week ago

Monday, exacerbate the problem because the sump pumps stop working, he said.

Area residents are being offered some financial assistance by the region to help pay for basement clean-up. A grant program set up in the early 1980s will forward \$250 to each resident who experienced water damage.

In some cases, according to Mr. Marshall, water was flowing in through basement windows.

The problem was first recognized in January, 1995, when a thunderstorm, coupled with a substantial winter thaw, caused basements to flood in the area. A few months later a severe storm ended with the same result.

Don Thomson, who has lived on the street since it was built 17 years ago, said there were no problems prior to the early 1995 storm. He added that people from Halton Region were all over the street the day after the most recent one looking for answers.

"I got about three inches of water right up through the drain in the basement floor," said Mr. Thomson. "They say • see HOMES on page 10



Foot dragging

Bob Rowley (above) cleared the first jump in the 16 and over open BMX racing event at Track 2000 on the weekend. However, the local racer then loses his footing and crashes, taking him out of contention. You can see his foot beginning to drag under the bike in the photo. Meanwhile, four-year-old Kyrsten Arndt (right) quenches her thirst after competing in the girls five and under beginner class.

Photos by Graham Paine



Brief to avoid movie mayhem

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

The Ontario Film Development Corporation (OFDC) has forwarded a letter to Milton with guidelines for companies filming on municipal property.

The letter is in response to difficulties encountered in Milton when a series of explosions unexpectedly rocked the Dufferin Aggregates quarry north of town. Unaware a production company was filming the movie *The Long Kiss Goodnight*, emergency teams rushed to the quarry expecting a downed air-

plane, or similar disaster. Phone calls flooded emergency services.

The OFDC guidelines call for contact names of film company officials and location managers to be included on applications for filming permits. They also recommend a general outline of action sequences be forwarded, including sets, props, vehicles, crew and special effects.

The OFDC said local residents should be informed and all should be given as much lead time as possible.

The government group suggests no location • see LOOKING on page 5

Drivers needed for Red Cross

If you have a friendly disposition and a driver's licence the Milton Red Cross needs you.

The Red Cross is in urgent need of volunteer drivers to take patients to medical appointments in town as well as in Oakville, Toronto and Hamilton. Call Susan at 875-1459 for more information.

NEWSLINES Gunpoint robbery

A masked robber fled with less than \$200 in a hold-up at a Trafalgar Road gas station early Saturday morning.

The culprit pointed a black pistol at the Pioneer gas bar clerk at 3:20 a.m. and demanded cash, Halton Regional Police said. No one was hurt.

The suspect is described as male, white, five-foot-four, 150 pounds, wearing faded blue jeans and a nylon jacket and woolen mask, both dark gray.

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Crash bash coming to Fall Fair

With almost two months remaining before the Milton Fall Fair, competitor entry applications have been quickly rolling in for both demolition derbies. The events, which take place Saturday night, Sept. 28 and Sunday afternoon, Sept. 29, are limited to 48 cars per show.

More than \$2,000 has been posted in purse money and awards for the 1996 showcase. The two champions will earn over \$500 a piece while winning drivers in the qualifying heats receive trophies and cash

rewards. New at both events this year are heats featuring four-cylinder engined compact cars with a posted purse of \$150 each. The Most Outrageous Car, which is voted on by fans, will also be awarded prize money and a trophy.

Entry forms are available from the Milton Fall Fair office located at the Milton Fairgrounds. For further entry information, contact the fair office at 878-5689. For rules related questions, contact the Slack Motorsports office at (905) 765-8920.

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