

23

# The Canadian Champion Weekend

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## Public board flunking out, says tax group

By TIM WHITNELL

Special to The Champion

The Halton Board of Education has failed to make the grade.

That's the opinion of the Halton Taxpayers Coalition. The watchdog organization issued an overall grade of 'F' to the 18 trustees and the board's administration in its annual report card.

"Two-hundred and seventy-two million dollars, 60 per cent of your property tax, is spent on education, under the control of the Board of Education. Labor content is \$210 million, voted on by trustees — several with spouses and relatives employed in the system," stated the report card, signed by Taxpayers Coalition president Hugh Doull.

"There is constant conflict between the current director of education and many trustees. Who is the boss, the board or the director?"

were a couple of other criticisms aimed at the board as the coalition gave an 'F' grade in the area of administration.

Management also received an 'F' from the coalition, while the best mark, a 'B', was given in the category of effort.

Special attention was devoted to a 10/8 division of board trustees into two camps, as perceived by the coalition: 10 traditionalists who believe more money solves

problems and eight reformers who seek change in conjunction with cost-cutting. "This board, with its 10/8 split, has failed its year financially, educationally and professionally," the report card concludes. The unflattering failure mark, and generally unflattering comments, don't come as a surprise to some trustees.

"Their philosophy is to keep coming back and whip them (trustees), whip them, whip them, and not give us any credit for anything. But I don't expect anything else," said board Chair Linda Glover.

• see FAILING GRADE on page 12



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Finger painting

Sherylene Leslie decorates herself as well as the Oldsmobile Omega that was at Milton Mall Saturday for the paint-a-car event. The night before, Sherylene was also one of 22 Kelso Skating Academy members who won the stuff-a-car contest. She squeezed into the vehicle with 21 others for the victory.

## Sifting clues of soil to era lost in time

By KAREN SMITH  
The Champion

When it comes to archaeology, Mel Brown really digs it.

The Campbellville man has spent most of his free time over the last 30 years searching out and excavating native Indian settlements.

"I spend all my spare time doing archaeology," says Mr. Brown, who is driven by

the intrigue of the field of study.

Unbeknown to the average resident, Halton-boasted at least 80 pre-historic Indian village sites (before European settlers), the majority in Milton and Campbellville. Many more are expected to be found, says Mr. Brown, who walked 1,500 acres last year looking for them.

The sites discovered to date are kept secret to protect the treasures they bear and the potential they have to answer the many questions about long-ago Indian life in the area.

An avid hunter and fisherman, Mr. Brown often pondered how aboriginal people braved the area's climate and conditions and is now finding out firsthand.

"I got to wondering, how did they survive?" he says.

He saw his first chance to delve into archaeology in the late 1960s when scuba diving colleague Bill Finlayson, a professional in the field, announced he was about to embark on an excavation.

• see HE REBUILDS on page 3



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Archaeologist Mel Brown walks through a clearing in the woods after taking notes at the scene of a prehistoric Indian village in Campbellville.

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**Bus safety session tomorrow**

The Halton School Bus Committee is holding its fourth annual School Bus Orientation Day on Saturday, August 24. The sessions aim at relieving some of the stress and concern and at the same time delivering a few messages about school bus safety. The 45-minute sessions take place beginning at 9 a.m. on August 24 at seven locations throughout Halton, including Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School. All parents of kindergarten children are encouraged to participate in this free orientation session, which features a classroom presentation on school bus safety.

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