

# The Canadian Champ

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## Foxfire

### Huisman quits, review goes on

By KAREN SMITH / The Champion

A regional review of the controversial book *Foxfire* will continue even though the complainant has withdrawn from the process, a Halton Board of Education official said.

"We think it's in the best interest of kids to take the review through to its conclusion," said Kit Rankin, superintendent of education services.

Jack Huisman of Campbellville, the man behind a 16-month fight to remove controversial novel *Foxfire: Confessions of a Girl Gang* from the school curriculum, abandoned his beef halfway through the review.

And in support of Mr. Huisman, Rev. Ken Campbell, president of the arch-conservative Christian lobby organization Renaissance Canada Inc. and an active participant of the campaign to oust the book, declined the board's invitation to take part.

Mr. Huisman said his main reason for withdrawing stems from a letter written by Wards 1 and 3 Halton public school Trustee Tim Kingsbury to *The Canadian Champion*.

In the letter to the editor published January 8, Mr. Kingsbury said only few local names were on a *Foxfire* petition, contrary to what Mr. Huisman reported at a previous board review of the book, and concluded that Mr. Huisman must have miscounted.

However, Mr. Huisman, a

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**JACK HUISMAN**

chartered accountant, said Mr. Kingsbury's statements were erroneous as the trustee was referring to a different petition — one actually initiated by Rev. Campbell in late 1995.

Mr. Huisman said he was so offended by the wrongful "attack" on his credibility that he decided to abandon his participation in the review process.

And since he's the only complainant to request the review, it should be terminated, he said.

"The continuation of the regional review now is profitless and a mindless waste of taxpayer's funds," Mr. Huisman wrote to Alison Mitchell, the review committee chair.

But Ms Rankin said *Foxfire* • see REVIEW on page 10



Photos by Graham Paine



### D'Amico and company

Former NHL linesman John D'Amico (left) stops to give some helmet safety advice to young Edmonton Oiler Brady Rimi, 3, during an annual fundraiser for the Easter Seal Society. Above, former Chicago Blackhawks great Pierre Piloté was on hand with his one-year-old grandson Karson. The 12th annual John D'Amico Skate at Milton Memorial Arena Saturday raised \$17,400. Organizers estimate about 200 people attended.

### Brent Kearse believes:

## Business trends are looking good

By BRAD REAUME  
The Champion

Halton Region is experiencing the full weight of several business trends sweeping North America.

According to Brent Kearse, director of Halton Region's business development arm, these trends should continue through

1997. He pointed to the push in retailing towards 'big box' developments, the rise in large industrial warehouse distribution centres and the booming home building market.

"I'm optimistic for 1997," said an upbeat Mr. Kearse. "We've come back up to 1987 building permit levels, mostly through residential development. Residential is booming. In Oakville they can't clear enough trees."

Mr. Kearse credited the lowest interest rates in a generation and substantial pent-up demand for the building boom. He added growth in the housing sector not only creates jobs in the construction industry but also provides major spinoffs to retailers through the purchasing of furniture, drapes, carpets and other housewares.

"Obviously Milton is not seeing the residential boom but it is a hotbed of new industrial and commercial development," said Mr. Kearse. "Milton got most of the

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BRENT KEARSE



development in that sector in Halton. About 95 per cent of the growth in Halton was in existing company expansions, which shows companies here are happy and doing well."

Milton, benefitting from Highway 401 and proximity to the airport, recorded just under 1,000,000 square feet in new industrial expansion, primarily in the warehouse and distribution business.

• see BUSINESS on page 2

### NEWSLINES

#### BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP



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### Changes in today's Champion

Today's paper offers a new look and some new features. The banner — that thing at the top of the front page — has been revamped, and we have a new focus on features through the weekly community page. There are more changes to come over time. We'll keep you informed, and we hope you enjoy them.

— Rob Kelly, Editor

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February 14 & 15

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