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NATIONAL

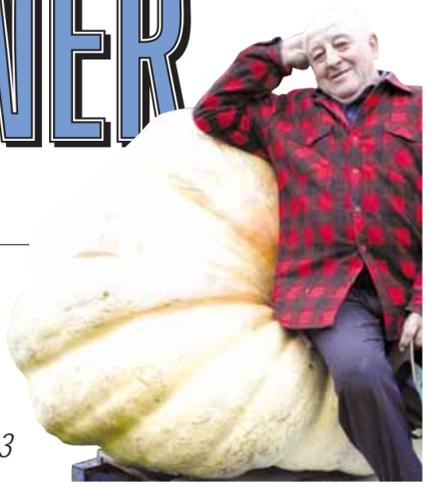
Jousting

Top Grits spar for the big chair *Page A6*

NEWS

Big Is Better

Local growers winning big *Page A3*



INSIDE



SPORTS

Luner cashes in at Barrie bonspiel

(STAFF) — Cary Luner's Toronto rink has been raking in the dough on the Ontario Curling Tour this season. **Page B1**

NEWS

Tense protest in Caledonia

CALEDONIA (CP) — A march organized to condemn government and police response to an aboriginal occupation descended into a tense standoff with police yesterday after hundreds of protesters attempted to storm the contested land. **Page A5**

WORLD

Fallen soldiers are honoured

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (CP) — For the third time in two weeks Canadian troops formed long lines yesterday to salute comrades who have died in increasingly violent attacks by anti-government insurgents. **Page A6**

INSIDE

Opinion	A4
National/World	A6
Sports	B1
Classifieds	B5
Entertainment	B8



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Court file ruling today

Judge to decide if Campione records will be made public

BY TRACY MCLAUGHLIN

Exactly how much, or how little, the public should be kept in the dark regarding the details surrounding the tragic story of two murdered little girls will be in the spotlight in a Barrie courtroom today.

SLAIN KIDS

Superior court Justice John McIsaac is expected to give his decision on whether or not the thick file that contains substantial details about the family life of Leo Campione and his wife, Frances Elaine Campione and their two daughters, Serena, 3, and Sophia, 1, should be made public.

Representatives from the media have argued the court records contain crucial information that might shed



SERENA



SOPHIA

light on why the girls were murdered in their Coulter Street apartment Oct. 4. Their 31-year-old mother is in cus-

tody charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

The girls' deaths have sparked widespread outcry from the public who repeatedly ask how and why this happened.

Many believe the answers will be found in the court file. For now, that file is under a sealing order that only the judge can break. But the law states that he must have solid reason to keep it sealed from the public.

LAWYERS *Page A3*

Cutting Him Loose



KEVIN LAMB PHOTO

A Barrie motorist braces himself as emergency workers use the Jaws of Life to cut him free from his vehicle following a crash on Georgian Drive, at Duckworth Street, yesterday afternoon. The crash caused a few traffic headaches after police were forced to close the road to investigate.

Liberals picking up steam: SES poll

Second majority very possible

BY JAMES WALLACE
OSPREY NEWS NETWORK

Ontario's Liberal government is cruising toward a second majority mandate, suggests a new poll by SES Research.

With less than a year to go before the next provincial election, Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government appears to have recovered from a politically devastating series of broken promises that sent party popularity plummeting early in its mandate.

The SES Research poll shows support for the Liberals has firmed up at 40 per cent and has been treading at that level for some time.

"Right now the Liberals have a seven point lead over the Conservatives, which is obviously not really as comfortable as the win they had three years ago, where they won the election by 12 points," said Nik Nanos, president of SES Research.

TRENDS *Page A5*

City cops corner 'gunman'

BARRIE — Friday the 13th turned out to be a bizarre day for a local man who was checking out his new pellet gun.

Police say the man had barely left a Bayfield Street store with his new pellet gun when he was surrounded by members of the Tactical Support Unit.

Police say a citizen had called the cops after spotting 'a suspicious looking man' in a parking lot with a weapon. The citizen said the 'gunman' appeared to be loading a rifle near his vehicle.

Police were relieved when they discovered the man had just purchased the pellet gun and was checking it out before securing it in his car.

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Trends important for political parties

Continued from Page A1

"But the current environment has really shown for the last six or seven months the Liberals consistently been ahead of the Conservatives," Nanos said.

"It could well be they're over the Liberal hump," he said, referring to the nickname that dogged the government after it broke key election promises early in its mandate.

The poll showed John Tory's Conservatives continue to trail the Liberals at 33 per cent, Howard Hampton's NDP at 20 per cent and Frank De Jong's Green Party with eight per cent of the decided vote.

Ontarians will next vote in a general provincial election on Oct. 4, 2007.

While election campaigns are notorious for their unpredictable, and occasionally jarring shifts in public opinion, trends are important indicators and starting points for political parties.

With the Liberals already sitting within spitting distance of another majority, the Opposition parties have their work cut out if they hope to challenge McGuinty's government.

"The game is on," Nanos said. "We're a year away from the campaign and this is a new environment.

"All the parties have to realize the old paradigm where you are on alert for a potential election and then turn everything around on a dime is now history," he said.

In an exclusive interview with Osprey News, Premier Dalton McGuinty said he "drive hard on our original mandate" for the remaining months of his final first term, principally a health care, education and job creation agenda.

The government will use that "foundation" as a platform to launch its campaign for the coming campaign, he said.

McGuinty intends not only to sell the government's record of "measurable"

achievement to reduce class sizes, wait times, and make progress on other priorities but position himself as the leader best able to foster the co-operative, supportive style of government he believes is critical for the province's future prosperity.

While the Liberals continue to remain popular in cities, they aren't fairsing well in smaller and rural communities.

McGuinty rejects the characterization of his government as urban-centric and argued in fact, the Liberals have "disproportionately increased funding in northern and rural Ontario" in areas such as health care and education to recognize the challenges of geography, population and other factors.

"My vision for Ontario is where each and every Ontarian is improving and given opportunity," he said.

Tory, on the other hand, clearly intends to launch a "vigorous" campaign highlighting broken Liberal promises including a "gross betrayal" to voters by raising taxes after promising in the last campaign he wouldn't do so.

Tory will attack what he perceives to be government by "photo-op" and pitch the need for government in the face of a softening economy that spends tax dollars more wisely and argue he's failed both cities and rural communities through massive downloading.

"I will want to be certain that I can look people in the eye and look the television cameras straight on and say to people this is what I will do if I get elected and you can count on me to do this," Tory said at a recent press conference.

The telephone survey of 500 Ontario voters was conducted between Sept. 30 and Oct. 3. It is considered accurate within 4.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

A detailed breakdown of the poll can be obtained at www.sesresearch.com.

Tense protest in Caledonia

Hundreds march to condemn occupation

CALEDONIA (CP) — A march organized to condemn government and police response to an aboriginal occupation descended into a tense standoff with police yesterday after hundreds of protesters attempted to storm the contested land.

In what has become a familiar sight in this southern Ontario town, non-aboriginals angered by the occupation squared off with police who had formed a line some 300 metres away from the Six Nations camp.

While several men stood nose to nose with provincial police officers in acts of defiance, and two were arrested after crossing the police line, the group slowly dispersed over the course of the two-hour standoff. A third man was arrested for attempting to cross the line and two women were arrested for intoxication, police said in a release. The road was cleared of both protesters and police by 6 p.m.

"We're pleased, that with a few exceptions, citizens remained peaceful," said Acting Commissioner Jay Hope. Although there have been several simi-



CP PHOTO

An OPP officer, right, and an unidentified person stare down each other after protesters marched on a housing development site occupied by First Nations yesterday in Caledonia, near Hamilton.

lar incidents since the occupation began in February, a fragile truce had been established with ongoing negotiations between Six Nations, the province, and Ottawa. Many people, including police and residents, blamed the shattering of that peace Sunday on rally organizer Gary McHale, who

lives some 110 kilometres away in Richmond Hill.

"We're left to clean up the mess that he started," said Jim Erwin, 25, who was among the men who faced off with police. "I hope to stand on that site with (Six Nations) and protest the government with them," Erwin said.

Cops probe deadly van crash

CALEDON (CP) — Police confirm that a child was one of four people killed in a horrific crash between a minivan filled with Korean tourists and a tractor-trailer northwest of Toronto.

Two of the other three victims killed Saturday night have been also identified, but there were difficulties identifying the fourth.

Six other people were hurt, two badly, in the crash at an intersection in a rural area.

No names have been released.

Nine of the 10 people in the minivan were Korean visitors, but the driver was from Canada.

Police were not clear on what exactly happened.

"Although only two vehicles (were

involved) and it appears fairly simple, the reconstructionists have to do their thing and that takes a bit of time, too," OPP Const. Kent Taylor said yesterday.

The intersection had stop signs and police say weather was not a factor.

The driver of the empty transport was shaken but not hurt.

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