

'I would rather live a full life...not half a life'



MATHEW MCCARTHY, RECORD STAFF

By Kevin Swayze, Record staff

**CAMBRIDGE** — Stuart Summerhayes knows he can't win his last race, but he won't let cancer set the pace.

Saturday, the champion race walker will conduct an orchestra for the first time. June 19, he plans to join hundreds of other knitters trying to set a world record at Cambridge city hall. On June 23, he'll go for a walk in high heel shoes for the first time in a fundraiser for the YWCA of Cambridge.

He's determined to attend his stepson's August wedding in Toronto.

"I think you have to make things happen, and you have to decide to have things you have to do," said Summerhayes, 76.

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# WATERLOO REGION RECORD

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Details, F6

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## 'Concrete desert' named Canada's best civic design



MELISSA TAIT, RECORD STAFF

Waterloo's mostly concrete public square has received an award for its urban design, although it was widely panned after it was completed.

By Jeff Outhit, Record staff

**WATERLOO** — Critics called it a concrete desert when it opened one year ago. Experts now call it the "four season heart of Waterloo."

The city's \$2.6-million public square has won a national award for urban design, just months after haters said it has too much concrete and not enough green.

A jury of architects and planners is applauding the square as a "livable space for people" that counteracts cars and serves as a good example to other communities.

That's more proof, perhaps, that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, or that change takes time to settle.

"Sometimes also it takes time for people to actually get used to some of the design aspects," said juror Vincent Asselin, a landscape architect in Montreal. "I thought it was quite a good relationship with the existing buildings. I thought it was well-crafted."

Asselin understands that people may dislike a square with no green. "A square is usually a green space. It's more green than hard."

But he considers the Waterloo square to be more like a plaza, an urban gathering place that needs a hard surface to fulfil its function. So perhaps it is misleadingly named.

"I saw it as more like a public space, a gathering for events and very flexible in creating different activities," Asselin said. "It seemed to make sense to have a hard space there."

Critics bashed the new square when it opened, writing letter after letter to complain and giving politicians an earful.

► **Square** continued on page A6

## Harmonized sales tax draws praise and concern

By Jeff Outhit, Record staff

**KITCHENER** — The Ontario government came to town Thursday to pitch its new sales tax to a family that thinks it makes sense.

"It sounds like it's a good thing for the province," Kaoru Yajima told a press event staged by the government inside his toy-filled suburban home. "If it's creating jobs, I think that's great."

His wife Siew Yee Sai volunteers for

government MPP Leeanna Pendergast, which is how the family of four came to sit down with Revenue Minister John Wilkinson.

Outside the Yajima home, Dave Wolfe was less persuaded the new tax makes sense.

"I think it's going to hurt a lot of people," said Wolfe, who lives nearby. He's looking for work.

► **HST** continued on page A6

## Thumbs-up: Journalists award BlackBerry creators

By Melinda Dalton, Record staff

**TORONTO** — For journalists working to feed the public's 24-hour-a-day appetite for news, the BlackBerry has become one of the quintessential tools of the trade.

And though they're not the ones telling the stories, Research In Motion co-CEOs Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsillie were honoured with a special tribute by the Canadian Journalism Foundation Thursday night in recognition of the revo-

lutionary impact the BlackBerry has had on modern news reporting.

"They've transformed the gathering and dissemination of news because they invented a technology that journalists today could now not do with-

out," said John Macfarlane, chair of the foundation.

"They're not journalists themselves, but they have transformed journalism," Macfarlane said.

► **Award** continued on page A2

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