

# Not all they're cracked up to be

A Toronto-based product designer is warning parents of young hockey players that the helmet their child is using may not adequately protect them from a serious head injury.

Morgan Matthews, owner of Impact Machine, a company that develops hockey equipment, believes that the certified child-specific helmet is still a cause for concern.

While these helmets meet Canada Safety Council standards, Matthews argues that more research is needed.

"Right now, the hottest topic is concussion," says Matthews.

According to Impact Machine, 90 per cent of concussions are caused by direct impact to the jaw.

While hockey moms and dads often worry about their child's safety on the ice, Matthews says their



Morgan Matthews with two of the helmets currently available for kids.

main concern should be the helmet.

"Right now, the most dangerous thing to say is that your helmet is concussion proof," he says.

"It's pretty scary ... Eventually parents are going to be afraid to have their kids involved in hockey."

According to Matthews, one of the main problems is the chin cup, which sits at jaw level.

"Because the cup sits right at your chin, if you get a good hit, it's going to drive it up into the face," Matthews says.

Matthews also argues that helmets designed for children should adhere to more precise measurements of the head. Impact Machine is working on a new helmet designed for children, which it hopes will be available on the market in the future.

In a report featured in the Canadian Medical Journal last year, Dr. Michael Cusimano, a neurosurgery professor at the University of Toronto, said that children who suffer from serious head injuries may not properly develop mentally and physically.

- Tanya Enberg, 24 hours

24  
hours

## Top spot for Canuck

Canadian sensation Genevieve Simard burned up the slopes in Italy, claiming her first World Cup victory of the year.  
P. 11

### TERRESTRIAL

Terrorists' get the chill out

A 24-hour fast becomes a battle for the world's most daring.  
P. 4

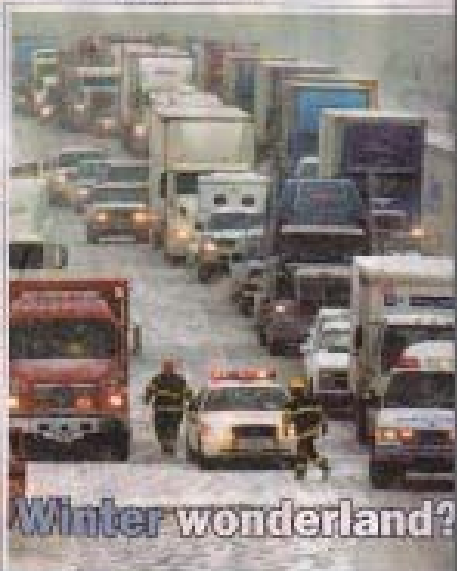
### WILDCARD

Our winner

Opinion: How do you win with our money?  
P. 10

### DESIGN

Design inspirations



Winter wonderland?