

# Group hopes to set up Christian school in Milton

## M.C.E.A. is seeking members to fulfil its goal

By JENNIFER ENRIGHT

The Milton Christian Education Association (M.C.E.A.) held its fall members' meeting on November 22 at the Martindale Gardens Retirement Community in Milton.

About 20 people attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a Christian school in Milton. At present, the M.C.E.A. has approximately 20 member families and a five-member board that oversees the work of the association.

Since the spring, the association has been working to raise interest in setting up an independent, non-denominational Christian school. An informal survey that was completed in March of this year indicated there was an interest in setting up a school initially that would provide education to children from junior kindergarten to Grades 3 or 4, but the association's chair, Jim Hughes, says more polling needs to be done to get a better sense of what people's expectations are.

Mr. Hughes said the focus at the moment is on get-

ting the support of as many as people as possible in the community to make the school a reality. "The vision will be established by the people that step forward." The M.C.E.A. is seeking board members, committee members, association members, and parents who would like their children to attend the school. Mr. Hughes noted that funding is also being sought to provide for school salaries, the purchase or rental of a school, and other costs expected to set up the school. The group's goal at this point is to establish a school by September 2005.

The association, which is a member of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools, is awaiting a decision on receiving charitable registration status. The M.C.E.A. has also formed a working partnership with John Knox Christian School in Oakville.

To find out about the M.C.E.A., log onto [www.miltonchristianschool.com](http://www.miltonchristianschool.com). The email address is [miltonchristian@sympatico.ca](mailto:miltonchristian@sympatico.ca).

Jim Hughes can be reached at 905-878-7529.

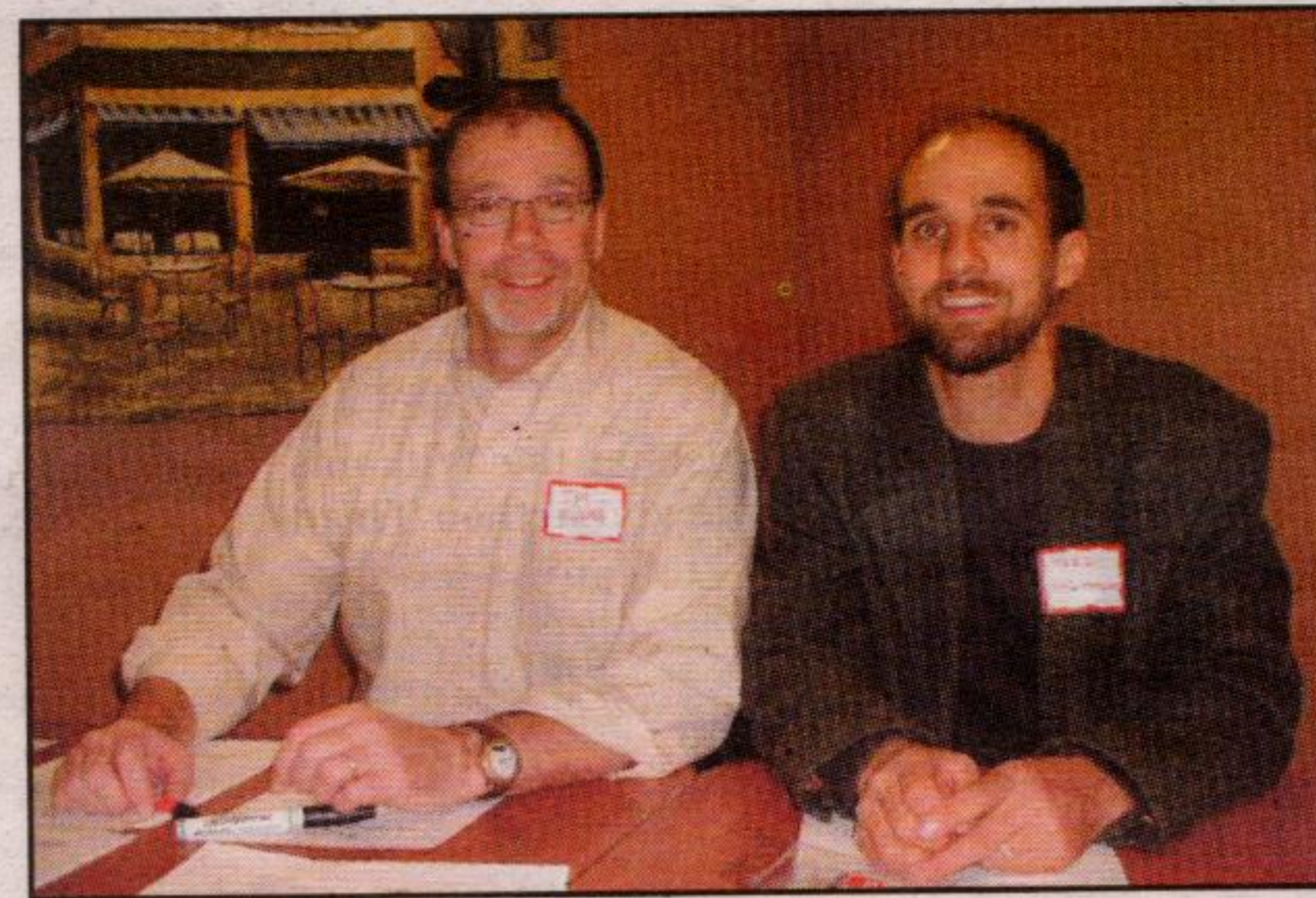


PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Milton resident Jim Hughes (left), chair of the Milton Christian Education Association (M.C.E.A.), attended a public information meeting about his association with Mark Van Landschoot (right), a resident of Hornby. At the meeting, Mark was elected to the M.C.E.A.'s board along with Cindy Woudstra.

## Holiday Charity Events

By BREN CHISHOLM

### Halton Women's Place and the Hamper Program

This is the time of year when we give thanks for what we have but it's easy to forget just how fortunate we are. The homes we live in are a source of comfort and our families are safe and loved. Yet there are others who live in constant fear and distress. Now is the time to make a difference to those who need our assistance.

The Halton Women's Place (HWP) has been around since 1980 and it's their goal to end violence against women. Within the safety of their shelters, they are able to protect women and their dependent children, as well as give them the confidence to restart their lives.

This time of year, HWP is running their annual Holiday Hamper program to benefit women and their children who are facing hardships in their lives. This Christmas could be made better for them through contributions from the community in the form of money, gift certificates and new items.

People can volunteer on their own or as a group to work with the HWP staff to sort and compile donations.

Check out the website [www.halton-womensplace.com](http://www.halton-womensplace.com) for specifics on what individuals and families require this Christmas. "There is an extensive Shelter Needs List, too. Those are the items that we need day in and day out, all year round," says Terry Roberts of HWP.

There are many ways to help with the Holiday Hamper program. If you are interested in sponsoring a family or would like to do some hands-on volunteer work, please call Terry Roberts at 905-332-1200, x 221. You can also contact Carmela

Bozzo, Special Event/Volunteer Coordinator at 905-332-1200, ext. 244 or e-mail her at [cbozzo@haltonwomensplace.com](mailto:cbozzo@haltonwomensplace.com) for further information.

### The HHCSI Christmas Program

The Halton Hills Community Support and Information (HHCSI) is a multi-service agency with many worthwhile causes on the go, but this time of year, the focus is on their Christmas Program.

Each year, many community members donate items and money to the HHCSI during the holiday season. Money donated allows them to purchase items of clothing for children of financially limited families. The HHCSI will also happily accept donations of new clothing, toys and knitted items.

Their Christmas Program is geared towards filling hampers with children's new clothing and toys for low-income families. "So far", says Cathy Gerrow, Community Support Coordinator from the HCCSI, "we've received tremendous support from the community."

"People are calling and asking how they can help. We have profiles of needy families with information about ages and sizes and they go and purchase items which we request they put in hampers before being brought to the office," says Gerrow.

This program is to help but it's also about being helped. If this Christmas poses some unforeseen difficulties for you and yours, feel free to drop into their offices to fill out an application form for the program. "Families having a difficult time this holiday season and would like to apply for the program are welcome to contact us. All applications are kept strictly confidential", reminds Gerrow.

The HHCSI offices are located at 36A Armstrong Ave., Georgetown and 47 Mill St. E., Acton. For information call Cathy at 519-853-3310 or e-mail her at [cathy.communitysupport@hhcci.ca](mailto:cathy.communitysupport@hhcci.ca).

### Milton Fire Department Annual Food Drive

The Milton Fire Department will be conducting their annual holiday food drive on Saturday, December 4th, 2004, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

"We've been doing this now for fourteen years and it just keeps getting better and better", says Captain Doug Shortt of the Fire Prevention.

The Milton Firefighters have ranked high over the years for graciously donating their time to help needy families in Milton put food on their table over the

holidays. With support from the Town of Milton, Fire Department vehicles will be canvassing the neighbourhoods of Milton collecting non-perishable food items for the Milton Salvation Army Food Bank.

There are many community volunteers that join the firefighters to help collect the food. Their work is greatly appreciated and if you wish to be one of them, please go to the Central Fire Station on Steeles Avenue at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 4, 2004.

For further information, please contact: Harold Penson, Fire Chief 905-878-7252, ext. 2807 and Doug Shortt, Captain, Fire Prevention 905-878-7252, ext. 2810.

Be prepared to experience true holiday warmth!

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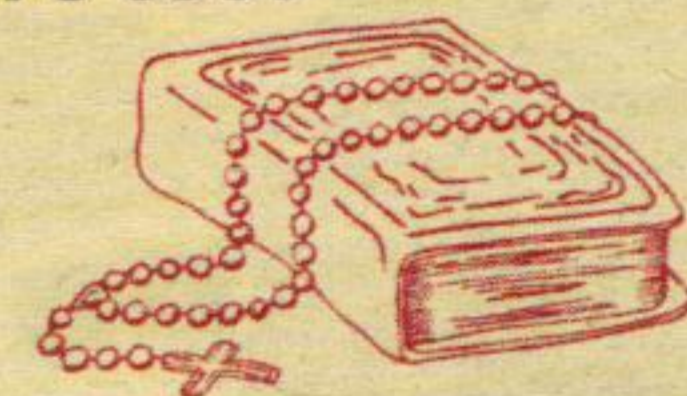
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