

**THE HALTON
COMPASS**

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Baker

A picture is worth a 1,000 words. Your two page pictorial coverage of the United Way of Milton's Town & Country House Tour in your November 26th issue provided a remarkable means of showing all your readers the various facets of the tour. Your photographer, Brandon Porter, was able to portray the fact that our tour is comprised of both small and large homes, old and new and each home provides a different atmosphere from warm and cozy to whimsical and fun to grand and luxurious. The small captions gave credit to the businesses responsible for the decorating without detracting from the photos.

Your article prior to our tour and several other pieces written about businesses that participate in the tour helped to indicate to the community how this event is made possible by the contribution of so many local businesses.

The Halton Compass helped make this tour a success again this year. We raised \$36,000 which will be added to the United Way of Milton's 2004 Campaign "Neighbours Helping Neighbours" that has a goal of \$425,000 this year. Your newspaper has truly become a significant Neighbour.

Sincerely

Christy Babcock

Volunteer Board Member & Chairperson
United Way of Milton Christmas House Tour

Salvation Army's Big Toy Drive Party

The Salvation Army's Big Toy Drive Party on December 4 got a lot of people up on the dance floor ready to enjoy themselves in support of a good cause. The evening included performances by Milton singer Urban Faria and a group from Mississauga called Maureen Brown as well as an auction conducted by auctioneer Brad Joyce. The toy drive party was hosted by the Salvation Army and Greg Parsons of Greg Parsons Productions. Each year, people attending the event help raise money for the Salvation Army and donate toys to local families.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT
Maureen Brown, the lead singer and drummer for the band Maureen Brown, provided some of the evening's entertainment during the Salvation Army's annual toy drive party.

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THE HALTON COMPASS welcomes letters to the Editor

However, we do not necessarily support or endorse the comments or opinions expressed by the writer(s). We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and telephone number of the writer should be included. Letters may be sent into 35 Crawford Crescent Box 129, Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0, emailed to editor@haltoncompass.com or faxed to 905-854-4761.

EDITORIAL

I admit it. I'm prejudiced and proud of it.

My grandfather used to say that he'd never seen an ugly face under a Salvation Army bonnet. He didn't mean that they only recruited pretty girls, but that the love in their smiles is what the word "lovely" truly means.

My grandfather had had a rough time of it. He was with the Seaforth Highlanders at Ypres in 1915 when he had the top of his skull removed by shrapnel and was invalidated out of the war. After putting a silver plate in his head, the Army offered him a pension for life or a lump sum of three hundred pounds. The doctors had given him three months to live at best. Now Granddad was a hard drinking, hard living Scot who thought that if he took the pension and died before he collected at least the three hundred pounds of the lump sum he would, in effect, have given money to the government. And giving money to the Sassanachs who sent him to the Front was more than he could stomach. He plumped for the cash and proceeded to drink himself to death. As I said he was a hard man, and six months later he woke up with a lulu of a hangover. He felt like he was going to die, he felt that he should die, but die he did not. In fact he lived on for another 57 years. And that was his tragedy. Wracked with pain and crippled by shrapnel embedded in his spine, he was unable to work and now had no pension. The years of the Great Depression were the worst. His young family struggled and went without. A baby daughter perished from lack of proper medication.

Through all those long years the only help he could count on came from those lovely faces under the Salvation Army bonnets.

I loved my grandfather and through him I have an unwavering soft spot for the Salvation Army.

Imagine my disgust on reading that the giant US retailer Target has banned Salvation Army kettles from outside their stores this Christmas. These spots brought in some US\$9 million last year and the Salvation Army is scrambling to recover from this blow. Now I'm sure that Target has some politically correct reason for this ban, but I don't care. Slapping the Sally Ann is, in my book, the equivalent of torturing bunnies. It's a good job that Target doesn't have any stores this side of the border or I'd be tempted to go on a crusade to get everyone to boycott them. As it is, I shall just hate them at a distance.

As I said I'm prejudiced. I like the Salvation Army. God bless them, and may their kettles overflow.

Milton mayor conducts business in wheelchair for a day



PHOTO BY DONNA DANIELLI

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz commemorated the International Day of Disabled Persons by attending to all civic matters in a wheelchair on December 3. "From first hand knowledge, I will be aware of the accessibility of our buildings and the everyday challenges an individual in a wheelchair faces," said Mayor Krantz, shown here with Milton's Christopher Lambert.