Dateline

Dateline is a free listing of coming events only. The column is available to local community groups to assist in promoting their future events. Only charitable or non-profit community groups may use this service. We can only guarantee one issue of publicity closest to the date of the occurrence although more insertions are possible if demand is low.

Notices for Dateline should be handed in at the office of The Champion, 191 Main St. E., mailed to P.O. Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, or faxed to (905) 878-4943. The final deadline is noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and noon Wednesday for Friday's edition. Dateline items will not be accepted by telephone.

Tuesday Dec. 16 - 24

The Milton District Hospital Auxiliary provides gift wrapping by donation at Milton Mall from 11 a.m. to close December 16 to 20 and 22 to 23, from 10 a.m. to close December 21, and from 9 a.m. to close December 24.

Wednesday Dec. 17

It's Hot Meal Deal Day at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., at 11:45 a.m. The event features a hot lunch and fellowship.

Ladies are invited to attend the neighbourhood Coffee Hour in the auditorium of Allendale, 185 Ontario St., from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The special feature is 'Gwen's House of Sweets' by Gwen Sharp. Guest speaker Pauline Beanage follows an interlude of musical selections. The event is hosted by the Milton Christian Ladies Coffee Hour. Admission is free. Babysitting is provided.

The North Halton Literacy Guild hosts a Christmas open house from 4 to 8 p.m. All volunteers and students are welcome. Call 873-2200 for more details.

The Milton La Leche League meets at CHERISH Family Resource Centre, 540 Childs Dr., at 8 p.m. Women interested in the latest information on breastfeeding are welcome. Group discussion is led by local leaders accredited by La Leche League International. Nursing babies are welcome. For further information, call 878-6387, 876-0772 or 878-4803.

Wednesday Dec. 17 - 24

The Halton Women's Centre and the Zonta Club offers a Christmas wrapping service at Hopedale Mall in Oakville. The project helps raise funds for the centre. To help out, call Melvina at 847-9104.

Thursday Dec. 18

The Victorian Order of Nurses holds foot care clinics at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., from 1 to 4 p.m., and at Milton District Hospital on Derry Road from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$15. For further information about the seniors' centre clinic, call 875-1681, or for the hospital clinic, call 827-8800.

Friday Dec. 19

It's Hot Meal Deal Day at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., at 11:45 a.m. The event features a hot lunch and fellowship.

Christmas Kaleidoscope - A Christmas Music Extravaganza takes place at St. John's United Church, 262 Randall St., in Oakville at 7 p.m. The event, sponsored by the Kerr Street Merchants and the Kerr Street Community Consultation Committee, is a fundraiser for the Ontario Special Olympics Spring Games hosted by Oakville and Burlington

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slashed about \$20 million from its budget over the last four or five years. She added local municipalities in Halton have axed a further \$16 million.

She explained the message that Halton's efforts must be taken into account has been constantly put to area MPPs and the Premier's office, with no result.

Mr. Chudleigh countered, saying the man on the street knows where the problem is, when he hears the tiny percentage of the budget that municipalities are required to eliminate.

The province has done away with the old municipal grant system, a change which municipalities had been warned about, and replaced them with a new arrangement.

"The old grants were flawed," said Mr. Chudleigh. "There was no equity, they were badly skewed. It was very much a patronage type system."

Halton loses almost \$6 million in provincial grants but gets more than \$11 million in new annual transfers and a further \$1.5 million in special transition funding for 1998.

In addition Queen's Park has provided more money to cover the transfer of provincial highways to local control.

Halton will be taking over Highway 5 and parts of Highway 25 on January 1.

"It had to be done to reorganize education taxes, which are now split 50-50," said Mr. Chudleigh. "Secondly it had to be done because nobody knew who was truly accountable on any service. There was always a lot of finger pointing."

Mr. Chudleigh acknowledged there is still work to be done to get the costs of education off property taxes.

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NOTICE

The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, R.S.O. 1990

The Niagara Escarpment Commission has initiated an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Amendment No. 121 proposes: To amend the policies of the Niagara Escarpment Plan to allow a single dwelling as a permitted use on an existing lot of record in the Mineral Resource Extraction Area designation for a worked out and rehabilitated pit or quarry which is no longer

licensed under the Aggregate Resources Act. A copy of the proposed amendment together with background information may be examined at the office of the:

> Niagara Escarpment Commission 232 Guelph Street Georgetown, ON L7G 4B1 Tel.: (905) 877-5191 or (905) 453-2468 Fax: (905) 873-7452

For additional information, please contact Ken Whitbread at extension 244.

Written comments and submissions on the amendment maybe made to the Niagara Escarpment Commission until March 20, 1998 at the Georgetown Office above.

Dated at Georgetown this 17th day of December, 1997

Don Scott, Chair

Get ready to pay Christmas sales constant

from SALES on page 1

Now they're picking up again.

Meanwhile, Milton Mall merchants are still waiting for the Christmas rush, said Marion Shannon, mall manager.

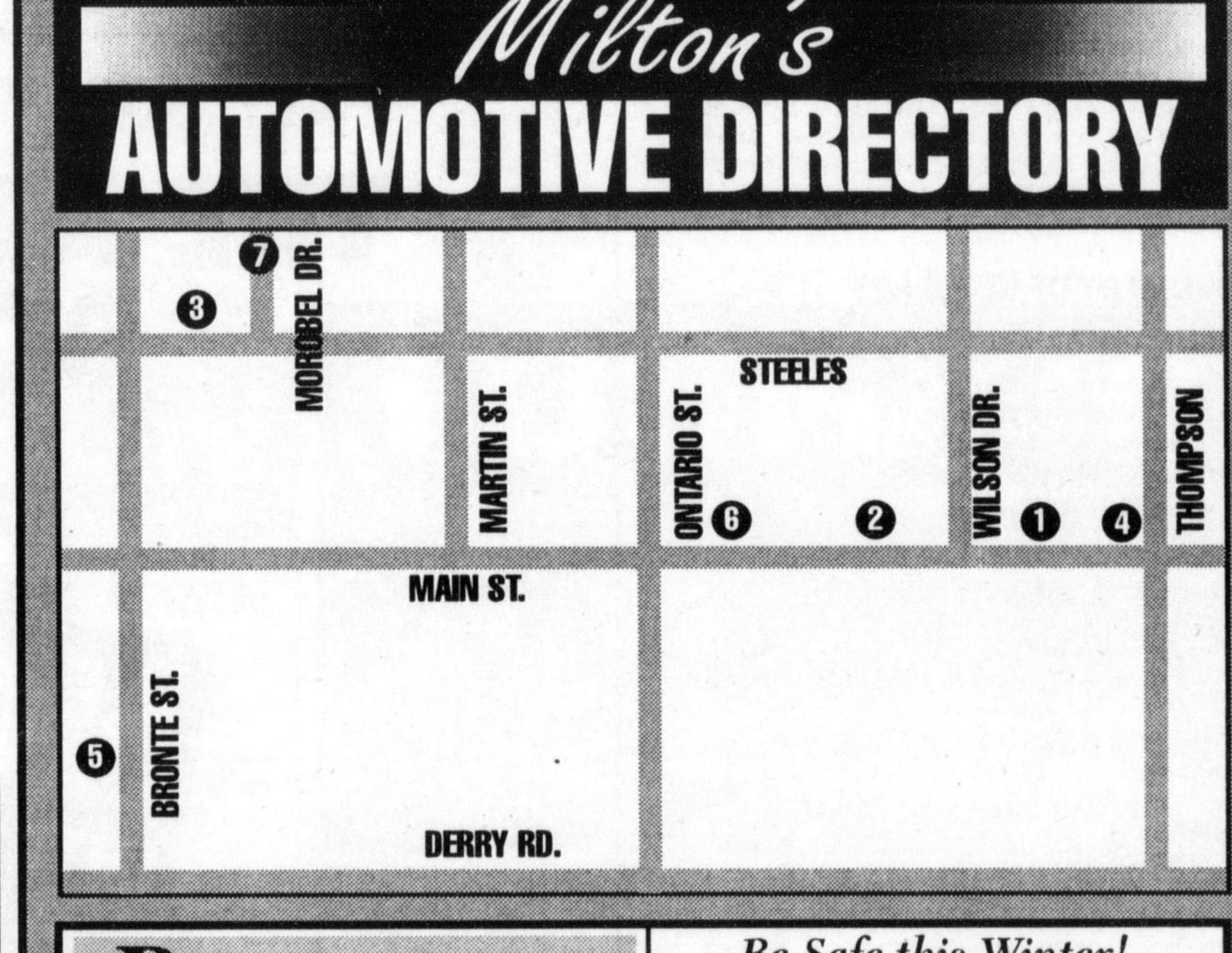
"People are still shopping for themselves," she said.

However, Zellers general manager Ed Lukezic said he was pleased with sales,

which he described as "slightly better than expected."

Nature's Fire operator Fiona Kennedy was upset that she hasn't seen more Milton residents shopping locally.

"I would like to see the Milton people support the downtown more," said the owner of the unique Main Street science and nature-related children's toy store.



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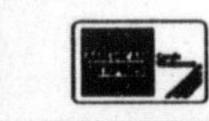
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