



# COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## That's amazing

The Milton community never ceases to amaze us here at The Champion.

We asked last Tuesday for a little extra help in meeting our \$20,000 goal for the Christmas Bureau Fund and people generously responded.

By noon Wednesday, donations to the Salvation Army fundraiser totalled more than \$24,000 -- the highest amount ever.

Many of our staff were in awe as private citizens and representatives of businesses and community groups walked through the door with contributions both big and small.

A major push came from employees at Meritor (formerly Rockwell International), which presented us with a cheque for \$2,500.

We agree with Milton Salvation Army family services director Sandra Ross quoted elsewhere in this newspaper saying that people in Milton need to be saluted.

So hats off to every Miltonian who donated to help others this Christmas, whether it was by contributing to the Christmas Bureau Fund, Salvation Army kettles or through some other means.

Your donations helped 220 Milton families have a pleasant Christmas during tough times and will assist the Salvation Army in continuing to come to the aid of other families in crisis.

Christmas dinner and toys for the kids were provided with donations. Left over money will help the Salvation Army support other families that can't put food on their tables throughout the year.

Thank you from The Champion and Happy New Year!

*Karen Smith  
Acting Editor*

## Our hearts go out

Milton was saddened by the recent news of the deaths of two local men shortly before Christmas.

Such sudden, tragic fatalities are hard to take at any time of year, but are especially hurtful at Christmas when family members unite to celebrate life, not mourn their losses.

Our hearts go out to the families and friends of Bradley Madill, 43, and Einar Wergeland, 45, who were killed suddenly in a car crash a week ago today.

Both men were known and liked by many.

There isn't much we can say or do to help, but please know our thoughts are with you.

*Karen Smith  
Acting Editor*

"I'm staying till 2002." - CHRÉTIEN



## OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

### Harris not telling whole story

Dear Editor:

This letter is regarding letter to the editor 'Reform needed now' published December 9.

We have all noted the rise in the education portion of our tax bill.

As the writer notes, increased enrollment and inflation accounts for some of the increase.

The writer wondered how the rest of the rise could be accounted for.

Our current premier, in his cosy fireside chats, would lead us to believe that unions are at fault. He wants to set up a 'we' vs. 'them' scenario.

This is a very divisive strategy. Instead of setting up an adversarial discussion toward cutting education costs, why doesn't he come clean with the electorate and inform us how the costs rose?

We as an intelligent electorate can understand legitimate reforms and necessary changes to education and can accommodate the expenses for the sake of future generations.

So why didn't Mike Harris just inform us that legislation in the mid-80s, which allowed students with special education needs to be accommodated in the school system and extended full funding to separate high schools, caused the large bulge of the increase in the last decade?

These changes account for half of the increases in costs he spoke about in his speech to the electorate on October

23 before the protest.

In the past few years, boards of education have already instituted many budget cuts as those of us with students in the education systems have seen.

Mike Harris would be advised to be honest with the electorate instead of trying to alienate and split people who need to work together.

I would hope that most voters would not want that seductive tax cut he promised at the expense of our young citizens.

*Marilyn Cox  
Milton*

### Triathlon volunteers thanked

Dear Editor:

The Milton Triathlon would like to thank the numerous volunteers for their help at the event.

Without these volunteers the event wouldn't have been such a great success.

A special thanks to Harry Barnes and Kay, Halton Crushed Stone for closing down for the day, Halton Golf and Country Club, Kelso Conservation Area, Town of Milton, Halton Regional Police and the Region of Halton.

See you next year!

*Mitch Fraser  
Milton*

### Pud

by Steve Nease

