



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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United Way donations touch so many lives

There are few agencies in the community that provide the breadth of charitable relief offered by the United Way.

As the name implies, it is an umbrella organization that acts as fundraiser for all sorts of worthy causes, such as Big Sisters and Big Brothers, the Victorian order of Nurses and a host of groups dealing with victims of abuse, addiction, disability and emotional strife.

Funding all that good work is a tall order. With the generosity of Miltonians in 1997-98, more than 50 programs and services were financed through 23 agencies. Grants totalling \$181,535 were disbursed by the United Way of Milton.

The first fundraiser of the season for the organization will take place this weekend (Saturday, Sept. 12) at Executive Fairways Golf Centre. It is the annual golf tournament, a mostly fun affair with a little golf sprinkled in. Details are published elsewhere in today's paper.

On Friday, Oct. 16 the United Way will hold its annual dinner and auction at Granite Ridge Golf Course, and on Saturday, Nov. 14 the popular Christmas house tour is scheduled.

Attendance at any or all of these events helps the cause, but so do straight donations, whether through company payroll deductions or one-shot contributions.

Representatives of the United way indicate that one in three people will use an agency supported by the United Way at one time or another.

In Milton, calls for help have increased dramatically, according to United way statistics. Consider the following:

- Service levels for victims of violence have jumped 191 per cent locally in the last four years.
- Crisis line calls pertaining to substance abuse, rape and incest are up 200 per cent since 1994.
- Three-quarters of women in Milton with children at home are active in the workplace.
- One quarter of all Milton seniors live alone.

This year an aggressive fundraising goal of \$275,000 has been set for the community. That sounds like a lot of money and it is, but there's little reason to suspect that the agency volunteers won't hover close to the target when all is said and done.

Over 16 years of local fundraising, the United Way has raised the bar from \$32,000 all the way to \$247,000, and while they don't always make the target, close counts and they're usually close.

We all have our favourite charities and causes, but in backing the United Way we're putting our money where it's almost guaranteed to do some good for many people, whose problems cut across the social spectrum. If we all help a little, we might just accomplish a lot.

For tickets or more information about the entertainment events scheduled by the United Way, please call 875-2550.



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Bramwell is way off base

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to Mr. Bramwell's letter of July 28 dismissing religion.

I would have to guess that Mr. Bramwell has an easier time living with himself by not having to answer for any of his shortcomings. This is perhaps due to his lack of open-mindedness and inability to accept anything without first seeing, touching or tasting it.

As far as a hard core explanation of God is concerned, I can only offer this: On November 10, 1996 in Milton, the room that I was sleeping in lit up at approximately 4 a.m. The blinds were closed and from darkness a light appeared. This I swear my life on and may I be cursed for the rest of my life if this statement is not truth.

Since that time I have gained a very strong faith in God and have stopped drinking alcohol, using illegal drugs and gambling. I now find real happiness in serving God to the best of my ability.

Mr. Bramwell, you know the sad part is, I used to be like you.

Without preaching to you too much, I know if you sincerely pray to God for forgiveness you will find yourself backtracking on your opinion. God bless you.

Rob Heft
Milton

Thanks for the help

Dear Editor:

I was the recipient of the Canadian Champion Award at Bishop Reding High this year. I would like to thank you and

your organization for sponsoring this award at our school. We like to think that we work hard at school to educate ourselves and success brings its own rewards. However, it is always nice to be recognized. The money will be helpful as I am attending the University of Toronto in the fall.

Karen L. Hurley
Milton

Dr. Ball right on the ball

Dear Editor:

On a recent Saturday at approximately 8 p.m., my puppy took seriously ill.

We spent an hour trying to locate an on-call veterinarian, only to be answered by voice mail and non-returned calls.

We went through the yellow pages, as my regular vet who claimed to have 24-hour service was not available. We called Brookville Veterinary Clinic. The vet on-call returned our call a minute later and on a Saturday evening took only 10 minutes to meet us at his Brookville office.

At the time we placed the call to the vet, we did not realize the severity of illness our puppy had had. However, even with the few concerns we had over the phone, Dr. Ball rushed to our assistance and gave the best quality care possible. He is definitely a devoted veterinarian with great professionalism at a cost no one could dispute.

This letter is not only a letter to thank him, but to make people aware of a wonderful veterinarian hospital that's dedicated to what us animal lovers would call their family.

Thank you, Dr. Ball. If ever anyone needs a great veterinarian, you'll find one in Brookville.

Tracey Smirle
Milton

Pud

by Steve Nease

