

# Fundraiser gives kids a glimpse of third world

By IRENE GENTLE

*The Champion*

After Milton's Martin Street Public School raised \$245 for an orphanage in Guatemala, retired Ford worker and new adventurer Roy Baker repaid them by bringing a little of the orphanage back to the school.

Mr. Baker arrived at the school recently armed with a slide show aimed at helping the kindergarten through grade five students see where their money had been sent.

Mr. Baker discovered the orphanage after deciding he wanted to learn Spanish the exotic way — in Antigua, Guatemala.

Receiving a fond farewell from his wife, he packed his bags and headed south for life lesson in Spanish immersion.

It was there he saw a sign pleading for volunteers to come to the orphanage.

The orphanage, called Casa Guatemala, was created in 1975 by a transplanted Montreal couple. It was originally conceived of as a home for about 25 babies. Today it houses 150 children ranging in age to 16.

The small, friendly man with enormous red glasses — sitting like a punctuation mark on an impossibly cheerful face — gave two talks about the orphanage at Martin Street School.

In his presentations, Mr. Baker described a world starkly different than that of the average Milton child.

"They don't have televisions or VCRs. They don't even have radios," said Mr. Baker, prompting a chorus of bewildered dismay from the assembled children.

"It's very primitive there. There are no roads into the villages, no running water, no electricity."

Not all the children at Casa Guatemala are orphans, he said.

"Sometimes the children leave home because home isn't a nice place to be and then somebody finds them because they're starving. Then they're taken to the orphanage," he said.

Tough times arrived at Casa Guatemala in the brutal form of Hurricane Mitch last year.

"They stayed in the dark for two days. They didn't know how far the water would come up," he told the children. "They didn't know if the roof would blow off."

It didn't. Instead, the big casualty was the land.

"The fields that held crops are now just sand, salt and rock," said Mr. Baker. "They can't grow anything. I guess they don't know how they're going to survive."

Survival was eased at first by donations that poured in during

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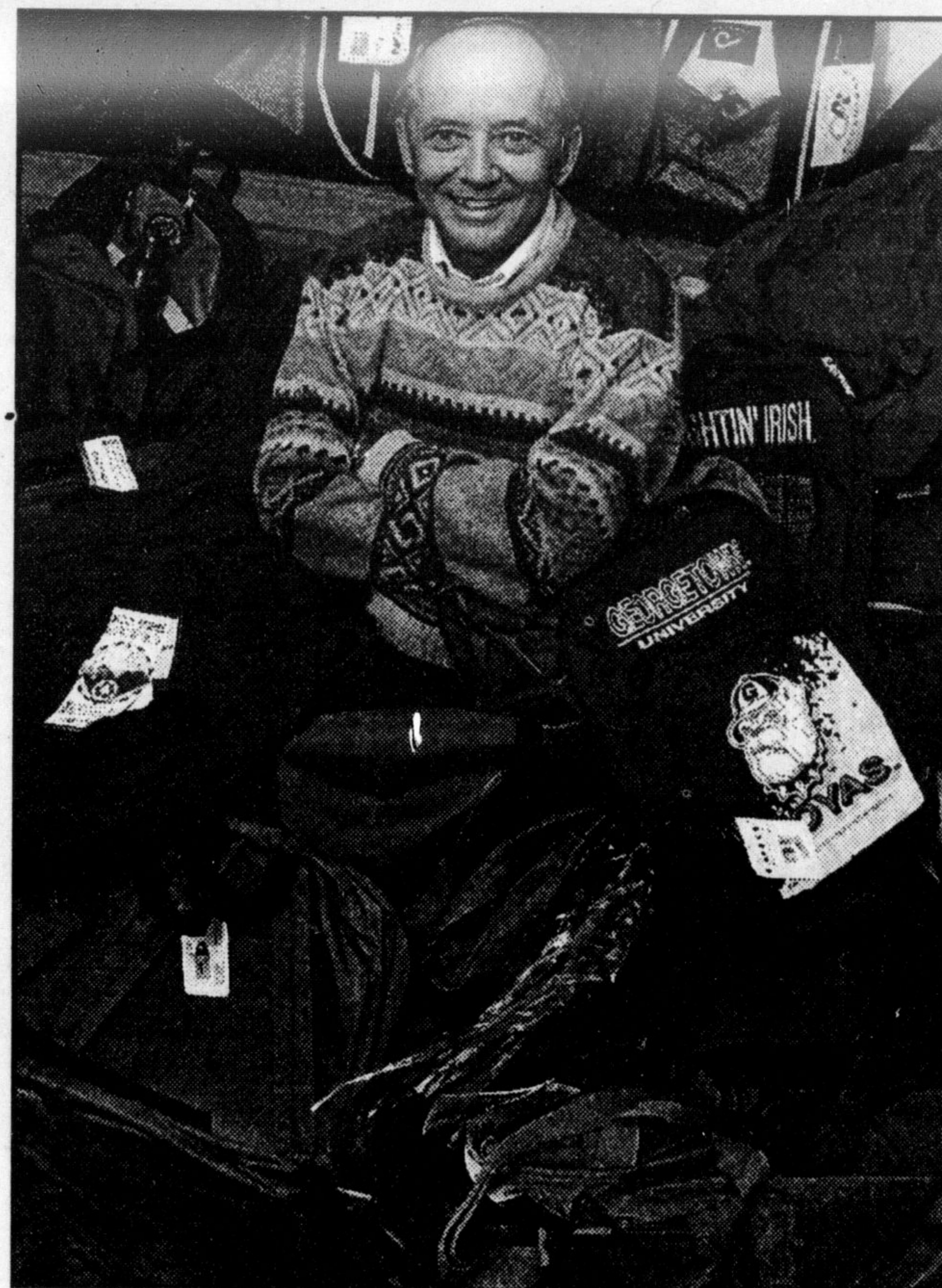


Photo by BARRY ERSKINE

Roy Baker sits among backpacks he obtained as donations for people in Guatemala.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### REGION OF HALTON

#### INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

AT DUNDAS STREET (REGIONAL ROAD No. 5)  
AND BRONTE ROAD (REGIONAL ROAD No. 25)

TOWN OF OAKVILLE

PR-1800

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 297 and 300 of The Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter M.45 as amended, that the Council for the Regional Municipality of Halton proposes at its meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 1999 at 9:30 am to pass a by-law for the intersection improvements at Dundas Street (Regional Road #5) and Bronte Road (Regional Road #25), in the form of lane extensions for the southbound through/right-turn and left turn lanes on Bronte Road approaching Dundas Street and the extension of the existing southbound merge lane and taper on Bronte Road south of Dundas Street, Town of Oakville.

Plans showing the proposed work may be inspected at the Planning & Public Works Department, Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville.

On Wednesday, April 14, 1999 at 9:30 am in the Halton Room at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario, Council through its Planning and Public Works Committee will hear in person, or by his/her Counsel, any person who claims that his/her lands will be prejudicially affected by the said by-law and who applies to the Regional Clerk no later than April 5, 1999 to be heard.

For further information, please contact:

**Mr. Joseph Choi, P. Eng**  
Manager of Design Services  
Region of Halton

1151 Bronte Road, Oakville ON

Telephone: Burlington/Milton/Oakville, call 825-6030, extension 7610

Aldershot residents call (905) 639-4540

www.region.halton.on.ca

JOANA A. EAGLESHAM  
REGIONAL CLERK



## Dateline

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of Derry Road, at 6:30 p.m. The evening includes games and door prizes. Tickets cost \$12, or \$6 for children under 12 years of age. Proceeds support prostate cancer research. Everyone is welcome. Call Maisie at 878-5133 or Eleanor at 878-8958.

People with diabetes and their families are invited to attend free health seminar 'Breakfast with the Experts: What's New in Diabetes?' The event takes place at 8:30 a.m. at Milton District Hospital. Dr. M. McCulloch, a family practitioner, indicates what's new in diabetes, and Marjorie Hollands, a registered dietitian and author, provides information on healthy food choices. To reserve a seat, call 338-4379.

The Milton Stamp Club hosts its semi-annual **Milton Stamp Fair** at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 878-1533 or 878-9076.

### Monday Mar. 8

The Milton Seniors' Activity Centre hosts a trip to **Casino-Rama** in Orillia. The cost, which includes transportation and a buffet lunch, is \$7 for members and \$12 for non-members. Call 875-1681 to sign up.

### Tuesday Mar. 9

The senior citizens' **Diners Club** holds its monthly get-together at a nearby eatery for gourmet food and socializing. Members meet at 12 noon at the restaurant. Call the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre at 875-1681 for the March location or to arrange car pooling.

### Wednesday Mar. 10

The **Campbellville Working From Home Club** holds its monthly meeting at 7:45 a.m. at Ebenezer Church, 12274 Guelph Line. New members are always welcome. Call Don at 854-2475 for more details.

The Milton Seniors' Activity Centre hosts its monthly **Evening Euchre Party**, starting at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$2.

### Thursday Mar. 11

The **Milton Deaf Action Group** meets from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Halton Regional Police station, 490 Childs Dr. The organization is a community partnership of deaf and hearing individuals and groups working together to make it easier for deaf people to access services and participate in the community.

The **Burlington Schizophrenia Society** holds its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. at Port Nelson United Church, 3132 South Drive in Burlington. For more information, call 634-6797.