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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

✓ Please pitch in

The Milton Fire Department's Murray McConnel (left), the Kinsmen Club's Ron Furik (centre) and Captain Dan Broome of the Salvation Army hope to collect non-perishable food items like these tomorrow. The department will drive fire trucks throughout Milton and Campbellville, sounding their sirens for Christmas donations.

Tax hikes are now illegal in Ontario

New bill prevents Ontario governments from raising taxes without public support

By **IRENE GENTLE**
The Champion

Increasing taxes just became illegal in Ontario, said Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh.

"We passed a bill that prevents any (provincial) government from increasing taxes without a plebiscite from the people," he said.

The exception would be in the case of a natural disaster, such as the recent ice storm in Montreal.

But even then, funds should be drained from an already budgeted miscellaneous fund of approximately \$600 million before taxes are touched.

"If it were to exceed that we could run a



"Some government may rescind it but it would take a lot of guts. You'll just have to re-elect us."
.....
TED CHUDLEIGH

deficit or increase taxes without penalty," said Mr. Chudleigh.

"But it would have to be extraordinary circumstances. The ice storm was managed out of miscellaneous funds."

The new bill even takes aim at the government that created it.

• see **SECOND** on page 5

Woman abducted, assaulted

Halton Regional Police are investigating a violent sexual assault on a 21-year-old Milton woman last Friday.

The young woman, a hearing-impaired student at the Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf, said she was sexually abused by two masked men in a white car with tinted windows.

The victim told police she was walking home from school on Parkway Drive shortly after 2 p.m. when she forced into the car by one of the men.

She was bound, blindfolded and brought to an unknown location where the assault took place. She was then driven back to the school and pushed from the car.

Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to call Det. Keith Woudstra at 878-5511 or Crime Stoppers of Halton at 825-8477.

✓ 'Buy a Bulb' campaign aimed at lighting up services for patients

Christmas has been a whole lot brighter at Milton District Hospital since its 'Buy a Bulb' fundraising campaign began in 1991.

So far, \$340,000 has been raised through this festive fundraiser. The money has been used to purchase hospital equipment.

Donations of \$10 or more are currently being requested to help light the Tree of Caring.

This year, proceeds will go toward a \$69,000 disinfection and cleaning system for endoscopes and other instruments.

The fundraiser follows a 'Twelve Days of Christmas' theme, with ornaments crafted to fit the lyrics of the well-known song.

A donation of \$150 or more will

light a large string of bulbs on the hospital tree.

And donors in this range will receive a glass ball depicting 'Nine Ladies Dancing' as a thank you gesture from the hospital Foundation.

Donations of \$50 to \$149 will set a small string of bulbs alight. Donors in this category will receive a silver and green coloured sled-shaped ornament.

And donors of \$10 to \$49 can choose between an array of wooden ornaments.

Residents are also invited to remember a loved one with the purchase of a special white light tree bulb.

These donors will receive a keep-

sake ornament.

Ornaments from previous years can be purchased by calling Donna McLaughlin at 876-7014.

Cheques should be made payable to the Milton District Hospital Foundation, located at 30 Derry Rd. E., L9T 2X5.

All donors will have the opportunity to win a hand-crafted wooden sled, now on display at Jo'Leen's dress shop on Main Street.

The lucky winner will be picked at a December 21 draw.

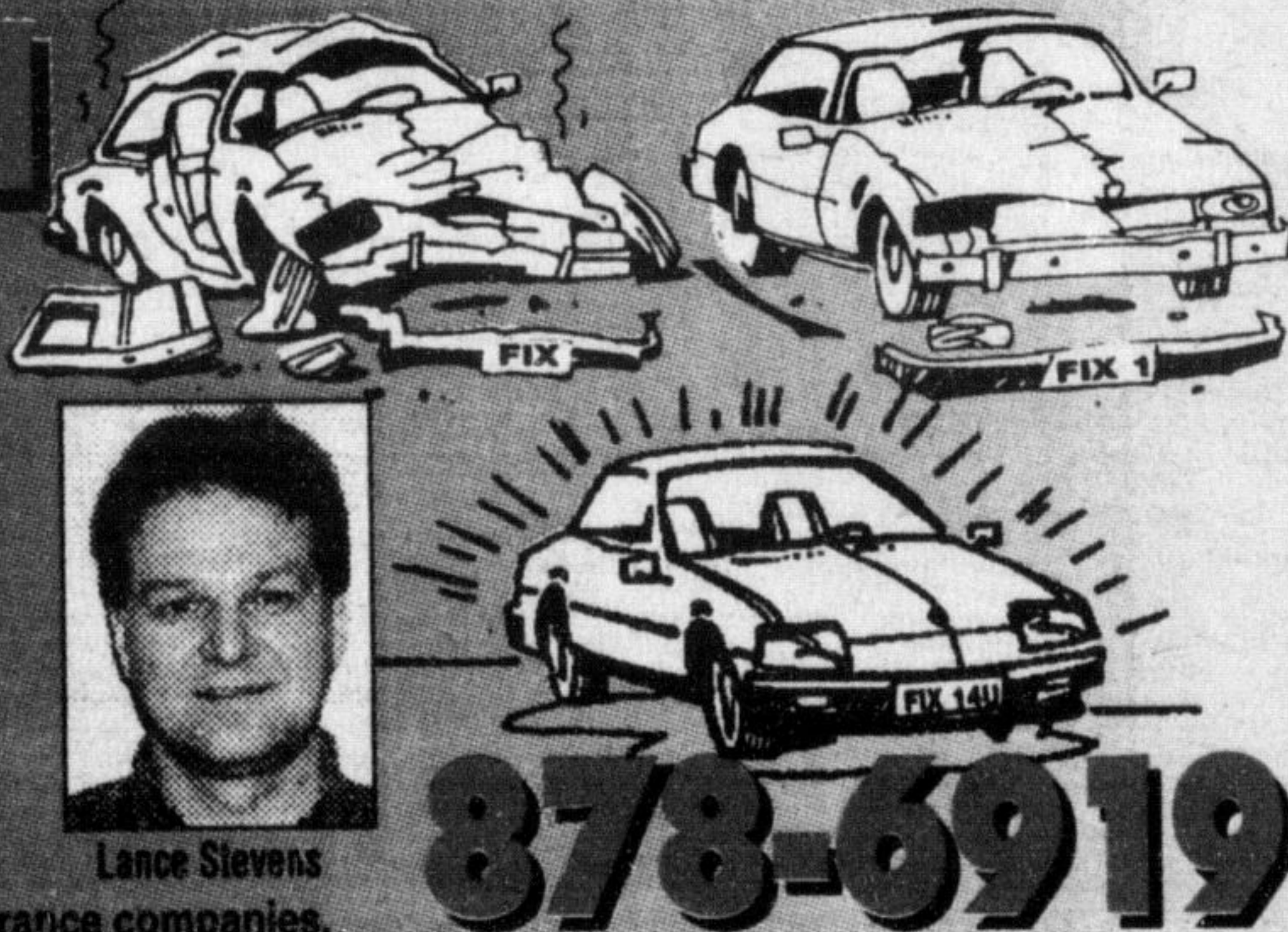
Also, the Foundation is offering a pick-up service for those interested in attending a Tuesday, Dec. 14 tree-lighting ceremony.

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SEE OUR CHRISTMAS AD ON PAGE 20.

NEWSLINES

Charges laid in crash

A Brampton man has been charged in connection with last month's car-train crash that claimed the life of one man and left two others injured on Thompson Road.

Glen Zuest, 25, faces charges of criminal negligence causing death, impaired driving causing death and driving with over the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.

His driver's licence has also been suspended for 90 days.

Mr. Zuest will appear in Milton court December 20.

WEEKEND INSERTS

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- Shoppers Drug Mart • Walmart • IDA*
- Toys R Us* • M&M Meats* • Sears
- Cristello's* • Food Basics*
- Canadian Tire • No Frills • China House*
- Community Guide • IGA* • Future Shop*
- Century 21* • Mr Sub* • TSC*
- Home Hardware* • John Pears-Remax*
- MARKETPLACE NOVEMBER 13*
- PPL Mary Barne*

*Selected areas only