



# COMMENT



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## It's time to answer call of United Way

The economists are hedging their bets but most believe we're heading for an economic downturn in the coming months.

What that means in human terms is that there will be layoffs, some permanent, and hardship will follow for many people.

In any economic slowdown individuals from every strata of society are equally at risk. Many of them will be directed to a wide variety of social services to help them weather the storm and get back on their feet again.

That's why it's more important than ever that everyone get behind the United Way of Milton's campaign to raise \$310,000 to help those people, their families and others who can so easily slip between the cracks in our social services safety net.

Milton is a growing community and with that growth comes more need and more pressure on existing services and to expand those services. It all takes money.

Most Miltonians received donation requests from the United Way in their mailboxes last week.

If every one of us does our bit for the United Way, we can rightly stand up and say we've helped our fellow citizens in times of crisis. It's something terrorists couldn't understand.

## OUR READERS WRITE

### Reader expresses his thanks to MDH staff

Dear Editor:

I wish to acknowledge the quality staff at Milton District Hospital.

During the late evening of September 24, I was rushed to Milton's emergency department by a friend.

In moments, I was met by several of the staff, wheeled into a room and quickly assessed and expert-

ly treated. All were friendly, efficient and understanding. The nurses and doctors were thoughtful and informative as they attended to my illness.

I hope you're aware how fortunate Milton is to enjoy such proficient, compassionate and cheerful staff.

**Robert Trollope**  
Rockwood

### Condolences offered to victims of terrorist attacks

Dear Editor:

I am a member of the human race.

I am in despair over the situation of this world.

The human race is on trial; this is a test for us. All of us. Why must the killing go on?

Why are there such poor people elsewhere in this world? Why are there such people in despair from the hunger, diseases, wars in the world today?

My tears, my condolences, my heart bleeds for these poor people who are fleeing to somewhere else and cannot find a peaceful place to live.

So many displaced people in this world. So many people killed on a daily basis. So many orphans in this world. When is man going to understand? When is man going to be grateful for what he has? Man's atrocities towards his fellow man. Man's inhumanities towards other human beings.

Let man get to the root of evil.

Let man strive for peace and harmony. Not more bloodshed.

**M. Taha**  
Bronte Street

## Is this town of ours absolutely awesome or what?

Unbelievable! I'm almost lost for words, but this is a story that has to be told.

Within hours of The Champion arriving on people's doorsteps, the generosity poured in.

Last Friday's edition contained a letter to the editor from Shyvon Leonard, a 20-year-old single mother who attends school while working part-time to support her baby daughter.

She had her much-needed bike stolen from Carriage Square.

For those who missed the letter, which was mostly directed to the thieves, a frustrated Ms Leonard described how the bicycle was her only means of transportation to work and school.

It had a specialized, blue front-mounted baby seat for her 21-month-old daughter. The bike and seat combined cost more than \$300 — money she borrowed from her mother and took her all summer to repay.

As a result of the theft, she had to leave her house more than an hour early to walk across town to work, then walk across town again to go to school. She also had to walk her daughter to the leisure centre for her specialized aquatic therapy.

Then early Friday morning the first call came into The Champion office. It was a woman who had read the letter and had a used bicycle to offer Ms Leonard.

"She can't keep walking across town everyday with the baby," the caring woman said.

Next, a woman from Milton Chrysler called and said the car dealership along with Spokes N' Slopes had gotten together and decided to jointly purchase a new bike and baby seat for Ms Leonard. How wonderful!

And yet another woman called. "I have a bike with a baby seat she can have," she said.



*From the editor's desk*  
with KAREN SMITH

As more and more offers started to pour in, I wished I had taken the full names of the callers so I could print them in this column.

Then, perhaps, one of the most touching calls came in. A woman phoned to tell us her young son wanted to donate the money he earned delivering newspapers to Ms Leonard. He had his bike stolen and knew how it felt. The offer left the

reporter who took the call teary-eyed.

And believe it or not, the generosity didn't stop there. Later on in the afternoon, a man walked into the office and offered to give Ms Leonard \$100 toward the purchase of a new bike.

And lo and behold, Goodlife Fitness phoned to offer help.

And get this, on Monday another man arrived at the office and offered \$300!

More offers, including ones from people in the bicycle business, were still coming in at press time.

With the recent acts of terrorism in the United States, I've been feeling a little down about the evil some humans are capable of and worried about where this world is headed.

But these acts of kindness have lifted my spirits. They've left me with a renewed feeling of pride in people, our people.