



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product

Please give generously to our Christmas fund

The Champion's annual Christmas Bureau Fund is being officially launched today and, amazingly, donations have already come in.

The Salvation Army fundraiser is aimed at helping needy families enjoy all the holiday trimmings, including gifts for the kids. It's unfortunate but a fact that many Milton households won't have those things without assistance.

Last year we were amazed when we started out with a tall order to raise \$25,000 and Miltonians came through with a whopping \$24,626. Based on that, we've set the 2001 goal again at \$25,000 with the hope of this year going over the top.

We donate to the cause ourselves here at The Champion, but our main involvement in the fund is to collect donations, ensure their kept safe and forward them to the Salvation Army.

Credit to the success of the fundraiser goes to generous citizens who take action to help others.

We realize numerous charities have their hands out asking for support, particularly during the holiday season, and it's already a financially-strapping time of year. But we're hoping we can reach our goal this year.

If you can help, please send donations payable to the Christmas Bureau Fund, Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, or drop them off at our office, 191 Main St. E.

Let's fight back against these destructive vandals

Recent acts of vandalism to retail stores on Main Street remind us that Milton isn't immune to random acts of senseless destruction.

Last week, three flower planters were destroyed outside of Halton Hills Fine Jewelry. A plastic flower planter outside of Tony's Barber Shop was also smashed.

Was it just a group of bored youngsters looking to liven up their night with some good old demolishing tactics? Maybe. Was this just a random act of utter stupidity? Perhaps.

Det. Kim Duncan of 12 Division in Milton told me acts of vandalism are rarely reported on Main Street and extra patrol will be roaming the streets in light of the Christmas season.

Maybe store owners do experience acts of destruction to their property more often than they report. Maybe they assume broken flower pots aren't a big enough deal to get their feathers in a

ruffle.

But it's people like Anita Mangotich, owner of the jewelry store on Main Street where the planters were destroyed, who're trying to make a difference in the community by speaking out against vandalism. She's taking a stand by letting residents know she's not taking the recent events lightly.

When I went to the store to find out the details of the damage, person after person who walked by the store stopped, stared at the broken flower pots, looked up through the window and gave Ms Mangotich a quizzical look. All she could do was slowly shake her head, to which the passerby would then look back at the damaged pots with a look of dismay. She was planning to decorate the pots in time for Christmas.

With the holiday season just around the corner, many homes and stores will soon deck out their



OUR READERS WRITE

Reader calls for landmine ban in Afghanistan

Dear Editor:

I've recently become involved with the Canadian Landmine Foundation and attempt to stay abreast of the issue as it pertains to the current situation in Afghanistan.

Among the multitude of issues concerning the state of affairs in this country at present, I believe, is the use of landmines. This is prevalent for two reasons.

Firstly, mines left over from previous invasions are posing a threat to the mass exodus of civilians from within Afghanistan. Secondly, the United States has the option to use or not use such indiscriminate weapons in their attack. (The U.S. is one of the few remaining countries in the world that hasn't signed the Ottawa Treaty to ban use and

production of landmines).

It seems rather silly that we ask others that if they're going to fight to at least fight nicely. The reason we do this is that weapons such as landmines or cluster bombs maim or kill innocent civilians even after the war is over — decades upon decades after a war is over.

Although I'm involved with an international organization, I notice that it's rather difficult to disseminate news of an important issue. I often ask myself how I can make a difference — how I can stop the use of indiscriminate weapons.

What I'm sharing with the community is information on Web sites and letter-writing campaigns that will and do pressure our government to in turn pressure the interna-

tional community of governments to make changes.

Please see the following Web site for a sample letter to ban indiscriminate weapon use in Afghanistan: www.icbl.org/action/afghanistan2001.html ('icbl' refers to Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines).

Or write your own letter and address it to: The Honorable Arthur Eggleton, Minister of Defense, National Headquarters, Major-General George R. Pearkes Building, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0K2

Log onto www.canadianlandmine.com for more facts on banning the use of landmines.

Diane Chesla
Childs Drive



Random thoughts

with FANNIE SUNSHINE

property with decorative lights, wreaths and ornaments. Store owners may be hesitant to decorate their stores in fear their hard work may be destroyed.

Should we bow (our heads) in defeat to the vandals that leave us feeling vulnerable and untrusting in our own town? Or should we show them we're not going to live in fear and will con-

tinue to embrace the community we have grown to love?

Living in Toronto, I'm used to dirty streets, hearing people shouting at all hours of the night, homes and stores being robbed on a daily basis and countless acts of criminal activity.

But here in Milton, people aren't used to this type of behaviour.

So to one day come into work only to discover your store (or property) has been randomly vandalized can destroy more than just whatever it was the vandals got hold of — it can destroy the trust you place in the community.

So what can be done to make the people of this town feel more at ease when it comes to the safety of their place of business? Ms Mangotich suggested forming a neighbourhood watch might help to curb the problem. After all, don't you want a safer community to work and live in?