



# COMMENT



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

**Ian Oliver** Publisher

**Neil Oliver** Associate Publisher

**Wendy McNab** Advertising Manager

**Karen Smith** Editor

**Steve Crozier** Circulation Manager

**Teri Casas** Office Manager

**Tim Coles** Production Manager

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Burlington Shopping News, City Parent, City of York Guardian, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Forever Young, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Halton Business Times, Huronia Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetangishene Mirror, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga Business Times, Mississauga News, Napanee Guide, Nassagaweya News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product



## The best gifts come in small packages

The holiday season is a challenging time for Canada's blood system. Increased travel on icy roads combined with traumas associated with winter activities, keeps the demand for blood high at this time of year.

To help deal with the demand, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) has kicked off its national holiday campaign, which runs until December 31.

The theme is 'Sometimes the Best Gifts Come in Small Packages' because for someone needing blood, the best gift they receive over the holidays could be a blood donation.

The national goal is to collect 105,000 blood donations in South Central Ontario (Milton's area), CBS needs to collect 9,359 units.

The 'Best Gifts' campaign encourages Canadians to give blood or plasma during the holidays or request an information package for the Bone Marrow Registry.

Milton's donor clinic will be held Thursday, Dec. 20 from 1:30 to 8 p.m. at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr.

Call 1-888-2-Donate (1-888-236-6283) to book an appointment to donate blood or plasma this holiday season.

It's unfortunate but a reality that personal tragedies happen every minute of every day in every community — even during the holidays.

## OUR READERS WRITE

### Family physician has hectic schedule but is never too busy for his patients, says reader

Dear Editor:

Last week I had to see my family doctor in Milton but was unable to get an appointment.

He was booked solid for the rest of the day. I was disappointed but not upset because I know my doctor is extremely busy between his own practice and at Milton District Hospital where he works several days a week.

And, I know there are times when he has fit one of my young sons or myself in at the end of his regular day.

I was prepared to go to the Emergency Department at the hospital (where I have always had wonderful care), when the doctors'

receptionist mentioned a new walk-in-clinic was open that evening. It turned out to be in the same building as my own doctor so it was going to be easy to find.

When I arrived with my son at the clinic, who should be on duty? It was my own doctor.

After a full day in his own practice he was working several more hours to assist people. And, it turns out, he was one of the doctors in town who got the walk-in-clinic going in the first place.

His dedication to the health and welfare of his Milton patients is without question. I knew this already, but this act is truly remarkable.

Yes, our health care system is in crisis. Underfunding and overworked are words constantly tossed around to describe its present state.

But, that doesn't mean we don't get quality care from our health professionals.

All of us should feel blessed to have such wonderful, caring physicians working in our Milton community.

Next time you visit your doctor, don't forget to say a sincere thanks for all they do for you. I did, and will do so again here. Thanks, Dr. Chung

Syd Read  
RR1, Moffat

## If your feat is notable enough, I'll write about it

It's that time of year again.

Early December marks the beginning of your local sports scribe's sojourn back into the past year's issues of The Champion — as I revisit local team and individual successes on the playing field in an effort to put together a year in review.

It's a task I look forward to, glossing over back issues that provide an ongoing reminder of just how many impressive athletes this fairly small community — although not for much longer, eh? — truly has.

However, The Champion's sports year in review also presents a question that's not quite so enjoyable to deal with — namely, *Did something get missed over the past year?*

That's never easy to answer. Of course not every single sporting event can make it into The Champion. There just isn't enough room.

Nevertheless, it's my job to try to ensure that anything notable makes it to print — and that's where you come in.

Sure I'm aware of most things going on in local sporting circles but knowing everything is to say the least a daunting challenge, and to say the most impossible.

Many of the stories I write throughout the year start from out-of-the-blue phone calls from individuals — or their loved ones — competing in all types of sports.

Fortunately, they realize that there's more to a sports section than just hockey or baseball. An athletic activity doesn't have to be well known by everyone to get ink. If an accomplishment is notable enough — I'll write about it.

That's my one wish for the fast-approaching new year, that local residents are never reluctant to approach me with a possible sports story.



with STEVE LeBLANC

Up  
front

And that includes all you newcomers as well — who, as I understand, have recently joined our delivery coverage area.

I sure hope you're enjoying The Champion and if you have an interesting story to tell you'll feel free to share it with the rest of us.

And if you do, please don't delay.

There have been times when I've had to say no

to a sports story request and often it's because the event is just too dated.

People don't want to read about — just as a couple of random examples — a skier's successes in the middle of May or a baseball team's championship win in November.

Sure not every sports event can hit the paper the second it's over, but the most recent it is the better chance it'll have of getting ink — and being enjoyed by the community at large.

And don't think you've got to do the work (through lengthy type-written reports) just because you have a story to tell. A simple phone call or visit to our office at 191 Main St. E will do.

After all, you're the ones making the sports news and I'm the one that's suppose to report it.

Anyway, that's about all for now sports fans. See you in the stands.