

COMMENT

We just can't give up quest to hit the target

The Champion's Christmas Bureau Fund still needs a big push over the next week if this year's goal is to be reached.

To date, \$14,145 has been raised for the campaign — which ensures that all local families have a nice Christmas, complete with dinner and toys for the children.

A lot more help is needed, however, if this year's goal of \$25,000 is to be reached. Last year, \$24,626 was raised.

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, the Salvation Army is also having trouble collecting donations in its Christmas kettle campaign.

We think that's attributed to the many donations people already made following the September 11 terrorist attacks coupled with the slow economy.

But we can't give up trying to reach our goal.

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.

Donations of non-perishable food and toys would also be greatly appreciated.



OUR READERS WRITE

Thanks to all who supported tournament

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the United Way of Milton, I want to thank the community for its support of the Mayor's Tournament.

The event raised approximately \$52,000 for the United Way of Milton. This was a tremendous kick-start to the 2001 fundraising campaign.

It's not possible in this letter to list all of the many individuals and businesses that supported the tournament in various ways, but obviously, without that generous support, the tournament wouldn't have achieved the results that it did.

I do want to specifically note our sin-

cere appreciation to Mayor Gord Krantz for his leadership and involvement, which clearly was the key to the success of the tournament.

I also want to express gratitude to tournament committee members Mario Belvedere, Bob Reid, Marty Caputo, Carol MacDonald, John Appleton, Darlene Davidson, Lana Burchett and Bob Wallace, who worked tirelessly for almost a year to prepare for the event.

Again, thank you to Mayor Krantz and the entire community for your support,

**Hal Watson, chairman
Mayor's Tournament for United
Way of Milton**

Veteran offers his thoughts on government's plan to add names of soldiers to Peace Tower

Dear Editor:

The federal government is planning to make room in the sacred Books of Remembrance in the Peace Tower in Ottawa for the names of 23 First World War soldiers who were convicted of cowardice or desertion.

The National Council of Veteran Associations has written to Veterans Affairs Minister Duhamel objecting to this inclusion. The impropriety is based on the fact that the Canadian government didn't have the intestinal fortitude to grant pardons as was done in New Zealand.

Mr. Duhamel has stated that it's not possible under Canadian law to grant such pardons. On the other hand, the New Zealand government several years ago pardoned five New Zealanders who were shot under the very same authority — the British Army Act of 1914.

The World War I Book of Remembrance contains the follow-

ing preamble:

'Here are recorded the names of the Canadians who, loyal to the Crown and faithful to the traditions of their fathers, served in the Canadian and other forces of the British Empire, and gave up their lives in the Great War — 1914 to 1918.'

Let's examine the charge against one member who deserted his post and caused the death of some of his comrades:

Private so and so was detailed as a lookout. He had been a troublesome soldier. It was nighttime and the German gas attack commenced just after midnight. His comrades, who were attempting to get some sleep in trenches 25 yards behind the lookout post, were caught unaware by the gas attack, and later by a bayonet attack by Germans. The action of Private so and so in deserting his post left his comrades without any warning of the devastating German trench raid. Several

were killed.

One has to wonder when a member of a future generation goes to look up a name in the Books of Remembrance, can he be sure that he's looking at the name of a war hero or a man convicted of cowardice?

When Prime Minister Robert Borden was dedicating the site for the Books of Remembrance, he stated that the names were 'testaments to the valour, sacrifice and unselfishness of those who died.'

We see no objection if, like New Zealand, the Canadian government grants a pardon to these soldiers.

If, on the other hand, the Canadian government only expresses regret that they were shot for cowardice and desertion, surely we have a new definition of courage.

**H. Clifford Chadderton
Chairman, National Council of
Veteran Associations in
Canada, Ottawa**

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