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Event raised from \$2,500 to \$3,000 for scholarship program: Martin

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quite know what to expect from the first-time event, but was thrilled with the end result.

"I was really pleased with how successful it was," said Ms Martin, who estimated that the event raised about \$2,500 to \$3,000 for the scholarship program.

"It definitely exceeded my expectations, especially the availability of our celebrities. They went above and beyond and really melted into the evening and the community. And I think they had fun to."

That certainly appeared to be the case with Mr. Hull, who took on the keynote speaker mantle and had the 160 attendees in stitches

See more coverage of the dinner/auction pages 25, 26 in Sports.

with a wide range of hilarity — much of which was of the R-rated variety.

"I'm really happy to be here in Milton, although after eight years in Winnipeg I'm happy to be anywhere," was among the Chicago Blackhawk legend's tamer jokes.

His 10-minute talk followed a spirited live auction hosted by Mr. Dionne, who in recent years has been operating his own sports memorabilia company and seems to enjoy the venture as much as his days centering the Los Angeles

Kings' Triple Crown line.

Enlisted to help beef up bidding were Milton Chamber of Commerce president Melissa DeBrouwer and Milton Merchant rookie Dean Strong — whose entire organization attended the event as the major sponsor.

The Merchants' involvement was a natural fit, since they one of the most successful scholarship track records of any team in Ontario.

An hour-long autograph session and post-dinner reception for sponsors helped round out the festivities — which Ms Martin said will be an annual event for the Chamber.

"A lot of credit has to go to the generosity of our sponsors. It was just very heartening to see everyone out," she said.

Weekend youth forum to include alternative music festival with DJ

A music festival featuring alternative music with a local DJ will be part of a weekend-long forum to address youth issues.

The forum will begin next Friday and the music will take place February 3 from noon to 5 p.m.

Local bands booked to appear at the event include: Explode the Airwaves, Adam Grub, Loneliest Inspiration, the Next best Thing, and 30odd08.

Due to space limitations, only those registered for the forum will be permitted to attend the music festival.

The youth forum, called Truth about Youth, will be held at Halton Region's headquarters on Bronte Road in Oakville.

The forum will provide an opportunity for Halton's youth, homeless youth and at-risk youth to meet with service providers and

parents to discuss ways the Region and other community partners can meet youths' health, employment and social needs.

Opinions will be collected to create a youth services plan.

Free transportation to the forum will be provided each day from pick-up points in Milton and other communities.

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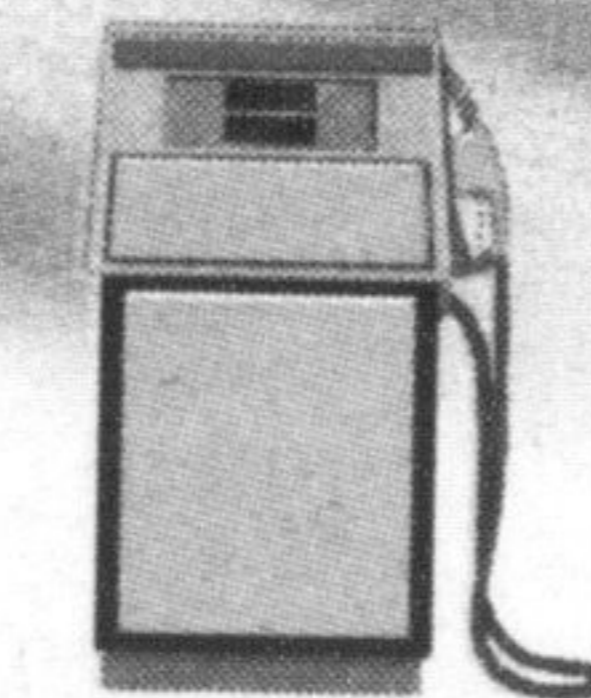
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