



COMMENT

Bottom line is Milton remains a safe place

It looks like fraud was the trend in crime in our town during 2002. As reported on the front page of this newspaper, Milton's crime hike is largely the result of an increase in fraud charges — almost all of which stemmed from a massive gas station bank card scam. In 2002, incidents of fraud rose to 452 from 90 in 2001 — an increase of a whopping 362. If Milton's fraud total had been the same as in 2001, the annual change in criminal activity would have only been 0.4 per cent higher. And the actual result would have been a crime rate decrease of 13.6 per cent considering the significant population growth in town. Similarly, if Milton's fraud count had been unchanged from 2001, the overall Halton crime total would have only been up 0.3 per cent, resulting in a crime rate decrease of 3 per cent. Our point is, despite the increase in population, Miltonians can continue to enjoy living in a relatively safe community. We just have to make sure we watch our bank cards and protect ourselves against any other con artists out there scheming up ways to cheat us out of our hard-earned dollars.



OUR READERS WRITE

Drivers need to slow down in winter: reader

Dear Editor:

Who's to blame? The weather, the roads, or us.

"Slippery roads have been blamed for numerous traffic mishaps this morning..." "A multi-vehicle pile-up has caused many injuries and extreme damage today..." "Heavy snow fall is reported to be the cause..." Sound familiar?

You seldom hear that there are many accidents because drivers fail to adjust their driving habits to suit weather situations. The same wintery conditions have been with us for more years than we can recall. What has changed is the volume

of transportation coupled with our urgency to get from point A to point B.

I realize winter driving can be challenging, and at times dangerous, but I'm also confident that if we allowed ourselves more time and were much more cautious by matching our driving to conditions, we could save a lot of pain, suffering, and deaths.

As a bonus, we would all enjoy cheaper insurance rates, as huge amounts must come out of insurance company coffers to settle claims.

Cy Stein
Mill Street

Toys for Tots a big success, says organizer

Dear Editor:

Halton Region and the Halton Regional Police Service, in partnership with Canadian Tire and the Salvation Army, recently completed their third annual Toys for Tots program throughout the region.

The 2002 program ran from November 16 to December 21 and collected Canadian Tire money and cash donations to buy toys for donation to the Salvation Army for distribution to families in need.

This year, Toys for Tots involved eight Canadian Tire stores in Oakville, Milton, Georgetown and Burlington. The campaign was a big success, raising more than \$33,000 in toys and cash — resulting in a brighter Christmas for many families within our communities.

The success is attributed to contributions from the community, schools and businesses throughout Halton that responded with cash or

toy donations.

Special thanks goes to Halton Honda for the donation of a Honda Pilot complete with Toys for Tots decals for promotional and operational duties. The Toys for Tots program also wishes to thank the following organizations for their cash donations: International Trucking, Canadian Tire Association (Oakville), Canadian Tire Found Families (Milton), Halton Regional Police Association Children's Christmas Party, Halton Regional Police #3 District CIB Christmas Party, Algonquin Power, St. Gabriel's School and S/Sgt. Murray Drinkwalter.

We'd also like to thank a number of organizations for their toy donations, including Glenview Public School, Joe Dogs restaurant, the Burlington Post newspaper, Burlington Bingo, NHL Enterprises, Longo's Food stores as well as all community members

who dropped off toys and gifts at our local police stations.

In reviewing the results of the Toys for Tots program, Chief Ean Algar said, "We are grateful for the generous gifts provided by the public for this worthwhile program."

"It was also rewarding to see the participation of schools collecting money and toys for other children in need. That's what Christmas and the holidays are all about."

Chief Algar added, "Contributing to the success of the program is the more than 50 police volunteers who gave their own time to staff Canadian Tire locations, the good work of the Salvation Army in identifying families in need and the participating Canadian Tire stores that positively promote the program. They're truly community partners."

Const. Chantal Verrier
Halton Regional Police

E-mail your letters to the editor to miltoned@haltonsearch.com, or fax them to (905) 878-4943.



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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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/Penetanguishene 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.

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by Steve Nease