

Trust fund for psychiatric unit up to \$1,000, but more needed

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

When Gina Sonsogno's son, who was clinically depressed, committed suicide three years ago, Ms Sonsogno decided she had to do something to deal with her grief and keep her son's memory alive.

So she started a trust fund at Milton District Hospital in her son's name.

Her dream? To raise enough money to see a psychiatric ward open at the hospital for people suffering from depression or other mental disorders.

Two years later, the Orlando Sonsogno trust fund is still open and has collected \$990. As Ms

Sonsogno gets ready to honour her son's birthday this Monday — he would have been 26 years old — she wants Miltonians to see the urgency of her dream.

"I want to keep informing Miltonians that the town is getting bigger, and there are no psychiatric facilities here. If young people have problems, there's nothing local," Ms Sonsogno said, adding that people are now sent to Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital to receive psychiatric treatment.

"We have to deal with these issues across the board — depression and mental illnesses are skyrocketing."

Ms Sonsogno said she believes if her son had easy access to help, he would be alive today.

She said it's important to meet the need Milton has before something similar happens to somebody else.

"This is something he would have wanted us to do for other people who want help," Ms Sonsogno said.

If you're interested in making a donation, call the Milton District Hospital at (905) 878-2383 and ask for the foundation department.

You can also bring a cheque to the hospital, or mail it to 30 Derry Rd. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 2X5.

VON Halton is training volunteers

If you've ever considered volunteering in palliative care, VON Halton is offering an informative training program.

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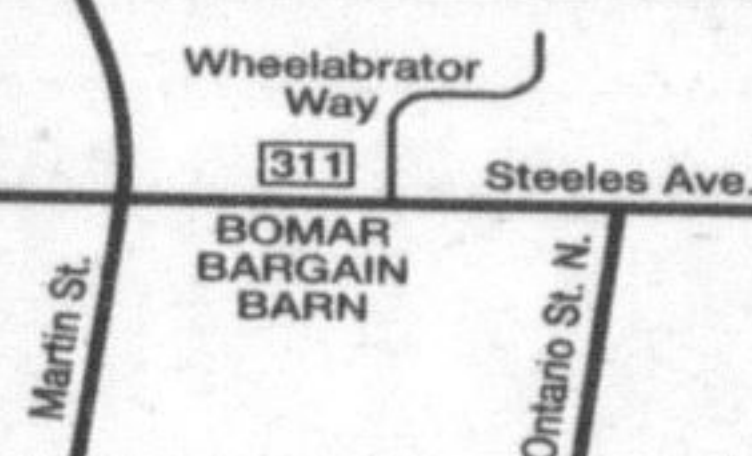
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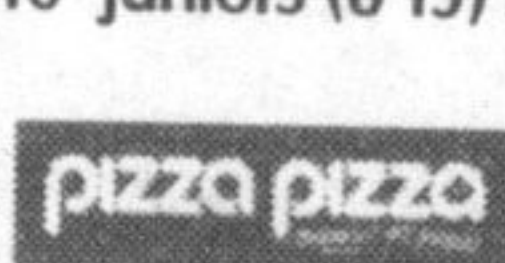
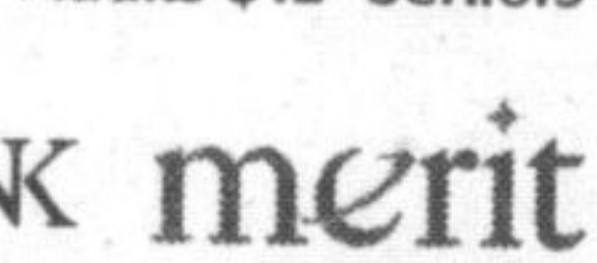
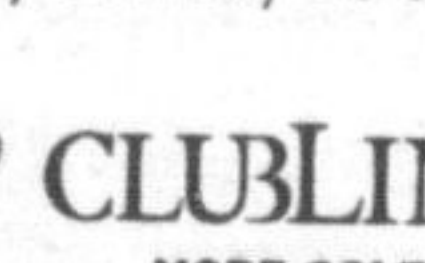
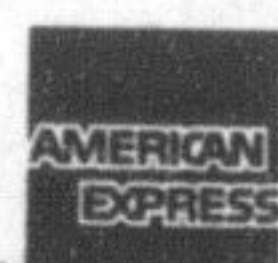
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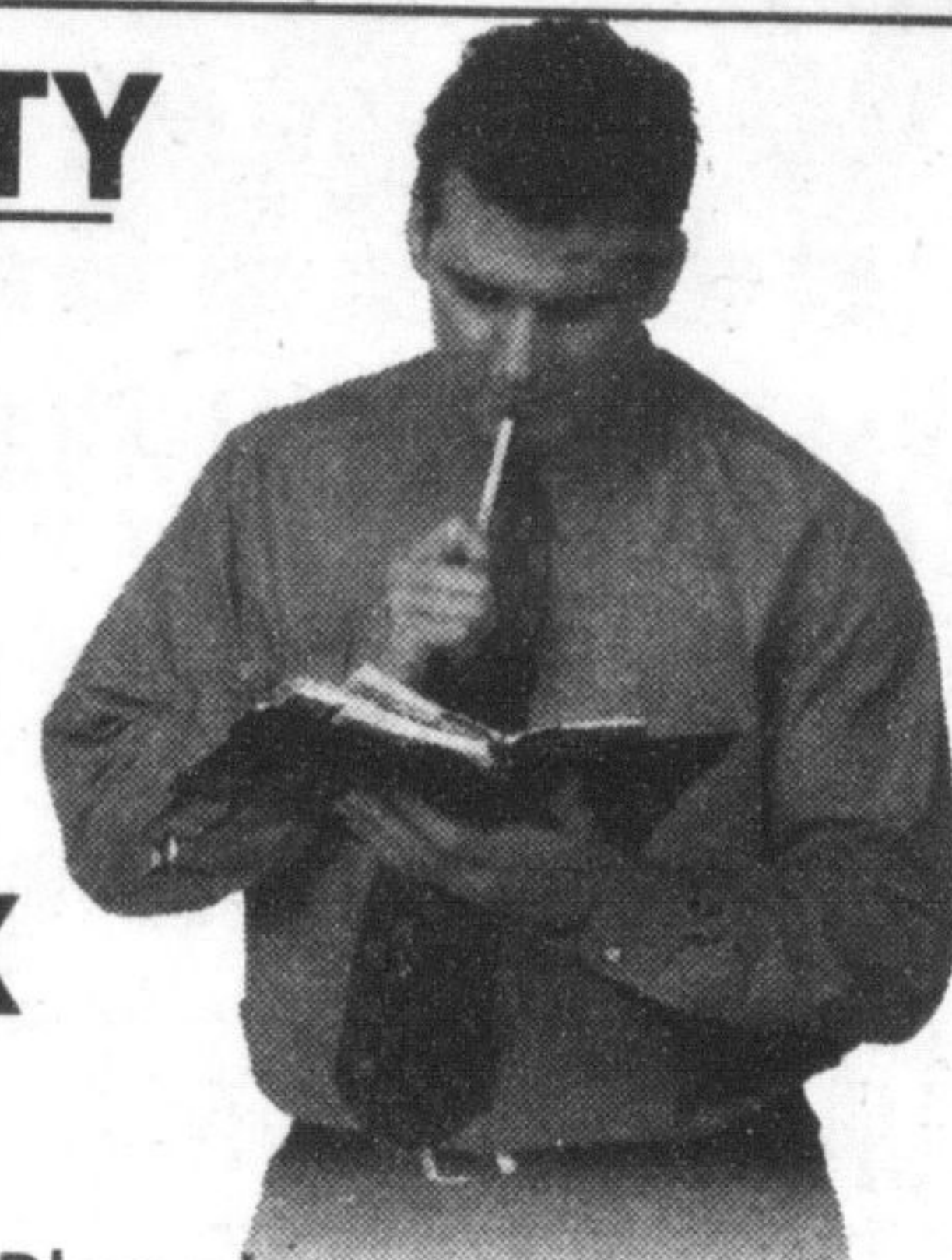
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