



COMMENT

Please give generously to our Christmas fund

Donations started rolling in this past week for The Champion's Christmas Bureau Fund — amazingly enough, before the annual fundraising drive was officially launched.

The generosity is nothing new around these parts, although contributions have come in a little earlier than usual this year. Hopefully that's a good omen for things to come and that we can equal or surpass last year's total of \$25,681.

We've set the goal at \$26,000 this year — and feel confident that local individuals and businesses will collectively meet that mark.

The Salvation Army fundraiser is aimed at ensuring needy families enjoy all the holiday trimmings, including gifts for the kids. It's sad to think about, but many Milton households won't have those things without assistance.

We donate to the cause ourselves here at The Champion, but our main involvement in the fund is to collect donations, ensure they're kept safe and forward them to the Salvation Army.

Credit for the success of the fundraiser goes to generous citizens who take action to help others.

To contribute, please make cheques payable to the Christmas Bureau Fund and drop them off at The Champion, 191 Main St. E.



OUR READERS WRITE

Ward 1 candidate says thanks to everybody who supported him during municipal election

Dear Editor:

I want to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to everyone who supported me during the municipal election.

Campaigning for public office is a long, tiring and emotional process. However, your encouragement, counsel and prayers made the effort worthwhile. Thanks to those people who exercised their democratic rights and voted for

their candidate. Congratulations to all the candidates who campaigned and took the risk, and congratulations to those who were successful.

Most rewarding, perhaps more than winning, was the chance to meet so many people and to build new friendships.

For that, I'm a better person.

**Greg Nelson
Milton**

Fatality raises serious questions regarding school board's transit system, says women

Dear Editor:

On May 14, Alex Bonehill perished in a horrific car accident. Alex was a nine-year-old boy whose smile would light up a room in an instant.

He was full of life with a bright future ahead of him. His birthday would have been this month.

At the time of the accident, Alex was attending a six-week program as part of his school curriculum. This program was located in Milton, with candidates limited to a maximum of six students.

Included in the program was transportation co-ordinated through the Halton District School Board.

On this day in May, there were two children being transported by

taxi. They were on their way home from attending the program when the accident occurred.

As a result of the accident, the taxi driver was charged with careless driving.

With the safety and well-being of children being transported via taxi to the school program, one would expect that prudent policies and practices would be implemented with respect to contracting of such taxi companies.

As the mother of a child who has also attended the program, I have the following unanswered questions:

What do these policies and practices entail, if indeed they do exist?

Are parents informed that there's

no consistency with the driver of the taxi and that any member of the taxi company may be transporting their children?

Are these taxi drivers subjected to the same testing and training as school bus drivers?

Is it simply a matter of financial restraint causing the use of a taxi versus a regular school bus?

With the lives of children at risk, one would expect the Halton District School Board to ensure that adequate policies and practices are implemented and enforced.

The safety of our children depend on it.

**Karen King
Georgetown**



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by Steve Nease

