

**ZAK'S PHARMACY**  
 Milton's Independent Pharmacy  
 • Free Delivery  
 • 10% Seniors Discount  
 • All Drug Plans Accepted  
 • Written Drug Info. Available  
**"At Zak's We Care About Your Health"**  
 70 Main St. E. 875-2424

# Weekend Champion

*Milton's Choice Since 1860*

**KAREN'S FLOWER SHOP**  
 Visit us at  
[www.karensflowershop.com](http://www.karensflowershop.com)  
 487 Laurier Ave.  
 878-2881

"Using Communication to Build Better Communities"

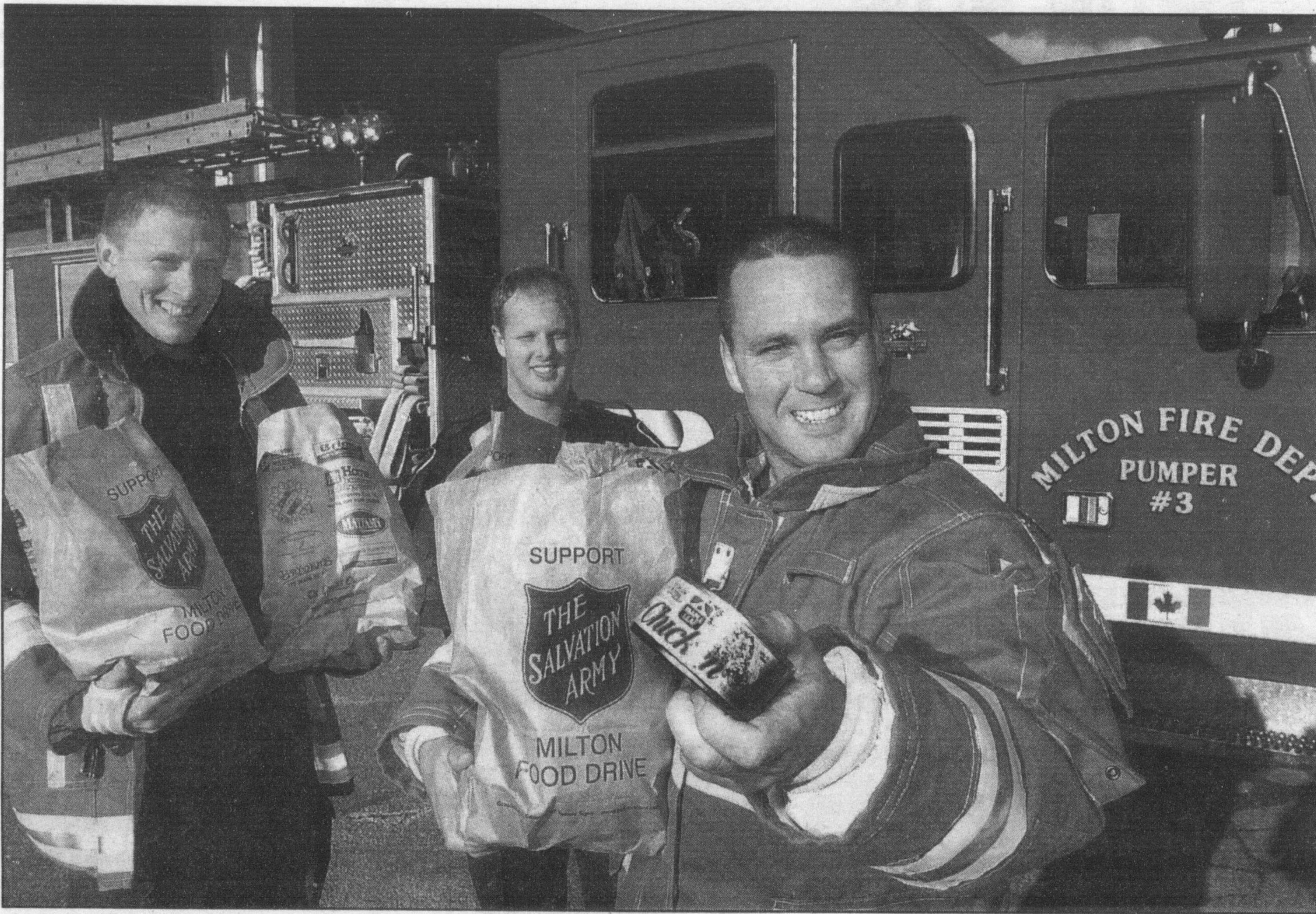
A Metroland Community Newspaper

Vol. 144 No. 76

Friday, December 5, 2003

44 Pages

\$1.00 (GST included)



## Please pitch in

Firefighters (from left) Paul Hollingshead, Matt Smith and Marcel Fournel, who's organizing this year's Firefighters Food Drive, get ready for tomorrow's big day. Firefighters will join forces with local community volunteers to collect food for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Tomorrow morning, residents are asked to set out non-perishable food in the bags distributed in last Friday's issue of the Champion. The bags will then be collected by travelling firefighters and volunteers between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. If residents prefer, they can simply come out when they hear fire vehicles in their neighbourhoods and hand the donations to the volunteers. Firefighters are still welcoming volunteers for tomorrow. They should arrive at the central fire station on Steeles Avenue at about 8:30 a.m. to help.

Photo by  
 GRAHAM PAINE

## Child, senior succumb to flu virus

*Health officials urge people to get flu shot*

By **JASON MISNER**  
*The Champion*

A Halton child and a senior have died after contracting influenza.

The death of the child, under the age of 10, appears to be only the second reported case of fatal influenza among Ontario children this year, and the first ever such case in Halton. Late last month a Peterborough child died of flu-related symptoms.

Due to privacy reasons, Halton Region's health department won't reveal the sex or exact age of the child or of the senior. Health officials also won't reveal where in Halton they are from.

"Both had pre-existing medical conditions that put them at a higher risk group," said Mary Anne Carson, Halton's manager of communicable diseases, adding there were no reported flu deaths here last year. "People at high risk are more sus-

ceptible to complications of the flu, like pneumonia."

As of press time yesterday, there were nine cases of influenza A in Halton. Seven of them are children under the age of 10.

This time last year there were six flu cases.

Ms Carson said there are no reported flu outbreaks in Halton so far this year.

The past four flu seasons have been mild, and many young children have not had an opportunity to be exposed to influenza viruses. The Region stressed it's even more important for kids over the age of six months to get a flu shot.

Said Ministry of Health spokesperson John Letherby: "Regardless of (a person's) physical condition, the flu shot is going to offer protection."

Canada's annual flu death toll is estimated between 500 and 1,500 deaths. When the flu virus

strikes, it inflames the lining of the respiratory tract, resulting in symptoms ranging from fever, chills, muscle aches and loss of appetite to a sore throat and dry cough.

It turns deadly when the immune system, already weakened by flu, can't fend off bacterial infections such as pneumonia, bronchitis or ear and sinus infections.

Meanwhile, the Region is waiting for test results from the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg to determine if any of the regional flu cases involved the new and potentially-deadly strain, called A Fujian.

The A Fujian wasn't part of this year's flu vaccine, which is designed to guard against three strains, including A Panama.

Health officials say there are similarities between A Panama and A Fujian and the vaccine offers some cross protection, and is another reason why the flu shot is being recommended. Normally

• see FLU on page 16

**INSIDE**

**Comment ..... 6-7**  
**Dateline ..... 17**  
**Sports ..... 23-24**  
**Classified .... 30-32**  
**A&E ..... B1**  
**Real Estate ..... B2**

**INSERTS**

• Friday, December 5 •

- A&P • Loblaws • Shoppers Drug Mart • Zellers
- IDA • Toys R Us • Sears • Food Basics
- Canadian Tire • No Frills • Fortinos
- Home Hardware • American On-Line • Best Wheels
- Acton Garden Market • Longos
- Rogers AT&T Wireless • Cogeco • Beardmore Leathers
- Sobey's • High Density • Country Style • Home Depot
- Future Shop • Radio Shack • MDG Computers

Selected areas only

**MILTOWNE COLLISION** **100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
 Please Drive Safe

**878-6919** 751 Main St. E. Units 9-11

Lance Stevens  
 PRESIDENT  
 WE MEET BY ACCIDENT.

**20% OFF STOREWIDE**  
 Excluding Jewellery at

**JO'LEEN'S**  
 Clothing • Accessories • Gifts  
 GLITZ • CASUAL • CLASSIC

2 Locations:  
 224 MAIN ST. E. MILTON 878-0506  
 MILTON MALL CORNER OF MAIN & ONTARIO 878-9446