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Rita Ward, president of the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary, holds one of the ornaments from the Christmas tree in the hospital lobby. The tree was decorated by the auxiliary's craft group. Meanwhile, the Milton District Hospital Foundation is getting ready to light the 'Tree of Caring' on the hospital grounds tonight. The ceremony will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. People can still purchase a bulb for the tree in support of the hospital. To donate or for more information about the ceremony, call (905) 876-7014.

Photo by
GRAHAM PAINE

Milton Jaycees celebrate 25 years with style

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Twenty-five years of building the Milton Jaycees into a dynamic and respected group culminated recently with a silver anniversary gala.

From the eye-popping ice sculpture bearing the Milton Jaycees' logo to the silent auction that included an original painting of the Mill Pond, the 25th anniversary gala event was a resounding success, organizers said.

"It wasn't low-key," said Milton Jaycees president Lianne Krane.

The event was held November 22 at the Mohawk Inn and Conference Centre. Attending the festivities were current and past members and dignitaries, including Mayor Gord Krantz.

Entertainment was provided by blind comedian and motivational speaker Gord Paynter.

Ms Krane said much of the evening's success was due to the corporate sponsors who donated items and were generous in their support.

Describing what the Jaycees organization is and what it does isn't a simple task, Ms Krane said. Although its members are involved with helping people in the community, it's more than a local service club, Ms Krane said.

"It's a teaching organization," she said. "We teach members how to be better citizens in their communities."

Training runs the gauntlet from studying the Dale Carnegie course to learning sign language to serving and learning through various charities.

"Our mission as a chapter is to develop ourselves as individuals and take and use that in our communities," said Ms Krane, whose husband, James, is chairman of the Jaycees board.

As the 2003 president — soon to pass the torch

to next year's president, Mike Luzar — Ms Krane said it's rewarding to see "what members are doing with their new-found knowledge."

She gave the example of Christina Godbolt, a Milton Jaycees member, who co-organized this year's Terry Fox Run for the first time.

Laura McKee, who was a member of the Milton Jaycees for 13 years, agreed that the gala anniversary event couldn't have gone better.

"They did a great job organizing it," she said. "It was packed. I don't think you could have fit one more table in there."

Although Ms McKee has graduated from the Milton Jaycees — members are 40 years of age and younger — she said she'll always be a part of it in some way or another.

Ms McKee, who recently won the Milton Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Award, said she owes a lot to the Milton Jaycees.

It was through the Jaycees that she became involved with the Santa Claus Parade and Canada Day planning committees, and volunteering was one of the main reasons she was chosen as Citizen of the Year, she said.

The Jaycees provided her with the training and confidence to take on roles she wouldn't have before, she said.

Ms McKee encourages Milton men and women to become involved with a Milton community group, whether it's the Jaycees or another organization.

"You become part of the town and take pride in it," she said.

For more information on the Milton Jaycees, visit www.miltonjaycees.ca.

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COGECO 14

Programming Schedule — Tuesday, Dec. 9th - Monday, December 15th, 2003

Tuesday, December 9	Wednesday, December 10	Thursday, December 11	Friday, December 12	Saturday, December 13	Sunday, December 14	Monday, December 15
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! Early Week Edition 5:30pm Seniors Showcase 6:30pm Optimist TV Bingo (Live) 8:00pm Halton Hills Inaugural Council - Dec. 1st	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! Early Week Edition 5:30pm "A Little Christmas" 6:30pm Be Inspired 7:00pm Swap Talk (Live) 8:00pm Milton Inaugural Council - Dec. 1st	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! Early Week Edition 5:30pm PeopleSpeak in Halton 6:30pm Main Street 8:00pm Halton Region Inaugural Council - Dec. 3rd	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! Late Week Edition 6:30pm "A Little Christmas" 8:00pm Rockwood Christmas Parade of Lights	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! Late Week Edition 8:00pm "A Little Christmas"	5, 6 & 7:30pm Plugged In! Late Week Edition 5:30pm Be Inspired 6:30pm Seniors Showcase 7:00pm "A Little Christmas" 8:00pm Rockwood Parade of Lights	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! Late Week Edition 5:30pm "The Christmas of Sara Betts" 6:30pm "A Little Christmas" 7:00pm "Christmas of Delancy Street" 8:00pm "A Gift of Hope" 9:00pm Milton Santa Claus Parade

"A Little Christmas" this week on Cogeco 14.