



Community Page

Coren uplifts crowd at prayer breakfast

Second annual event draws 250 people to Rattlesnake Point

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN
The Champion

With nearly 250 heads bowed in prayer, citizens and politicians alike, you could have heard the proverbial pin drop.

And then a deep, male voice cut through the silence and began to pray for Milton and Halton politicians.

Church leaders, congregants, councillors, business and education leaders gathered together February 27 for the second annual Milton Mayor's Christian Prayer Breakfast at Rattlesnake Point Golf and Country Club.

Solidarity was the order of the day and the shared belief in the power of prayer was demonstrated with more than just words.

Nearly every round table was filled to capacity, with people waiting to hear keynote speaker Michael Coren. The smell of scrambled eggs and bacon permeated the air.

"Our main goal was to draw Christians together to pray for those in authority over us," said organizer Bill MacKinnon, adding it was also to show appreciation to Milton's elected officials.

Speaker Mr. Coren is known as the outspoken host of a call-in radio show on CFRB and a TV talk show on CTS. His weekly column appears each Sunday in the Toronto Sun, and he's the author of 11 books.

Coren ideal guest

Mr. Coren was chosen as the event's speaker for a number of reasons, including his outspoken nature, Mr. MacKinnon said.

"He usually has a lot to say about civic issues and is outspoken about the government," said Mr. MacKinnon, adding Mr. Coren is a Christian. "Since our focus was on praying for our town leaders, we thought he'd be most appropriate to speak about civic issues."

And outspoken Mr. Coren was.

"I am the Christian who didn't like the Passion (of the Christ)," Mr. Coren said,

"It's great to see so many people here to pray. Prayer is the most important thing there is."

MICHAEL COREN

laughing, as he introduced himself to the room full of people.

For half-an-hour, Mr. Coren spoke of his conversion to Christianity and his personal belief in the power of prayer, illustrated by a story of his sister's reconciliation with his family. Jokes punctuated his message, leaving people in stitches.

He concluded with a challenge to share God's love, even when it's not easy.

"Love your neighbour as yourself," he said. "Without love, you have nothing. This is what Jesus preached time and again."

Mayor encouraged by turnout

At the conclusion of the breakfast, Mayor Gord Krantz said it's encouraging to have community members join for a common purpose, and spoke of the importance of creating a closely-knit community through caring for each other.

Mr. MacKinnon said the event went off without a hitch, and was even more successful than last year's. He said he looks forward to a third and fourth prayer breakfast.

It's heartening, he said, to see so many Miltonians unified in prayer.

"We all believe God answers prayer," he said, adding he thinks it's important to pray for wisdom for Milton's politicians and for continued peace in Milton.

Mr. Coren agreed.

"It's great to see so many people here to pray," he said, taking a break from autographing books and chatting with guests. "Prayer is the most important thing there is."

Sue Anderson, the music director at Grace Anglican Church, said while leaving the banquet room that she felt "uplifted" by the event, adding she found Mr. Coren's talk "spell-binding."

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

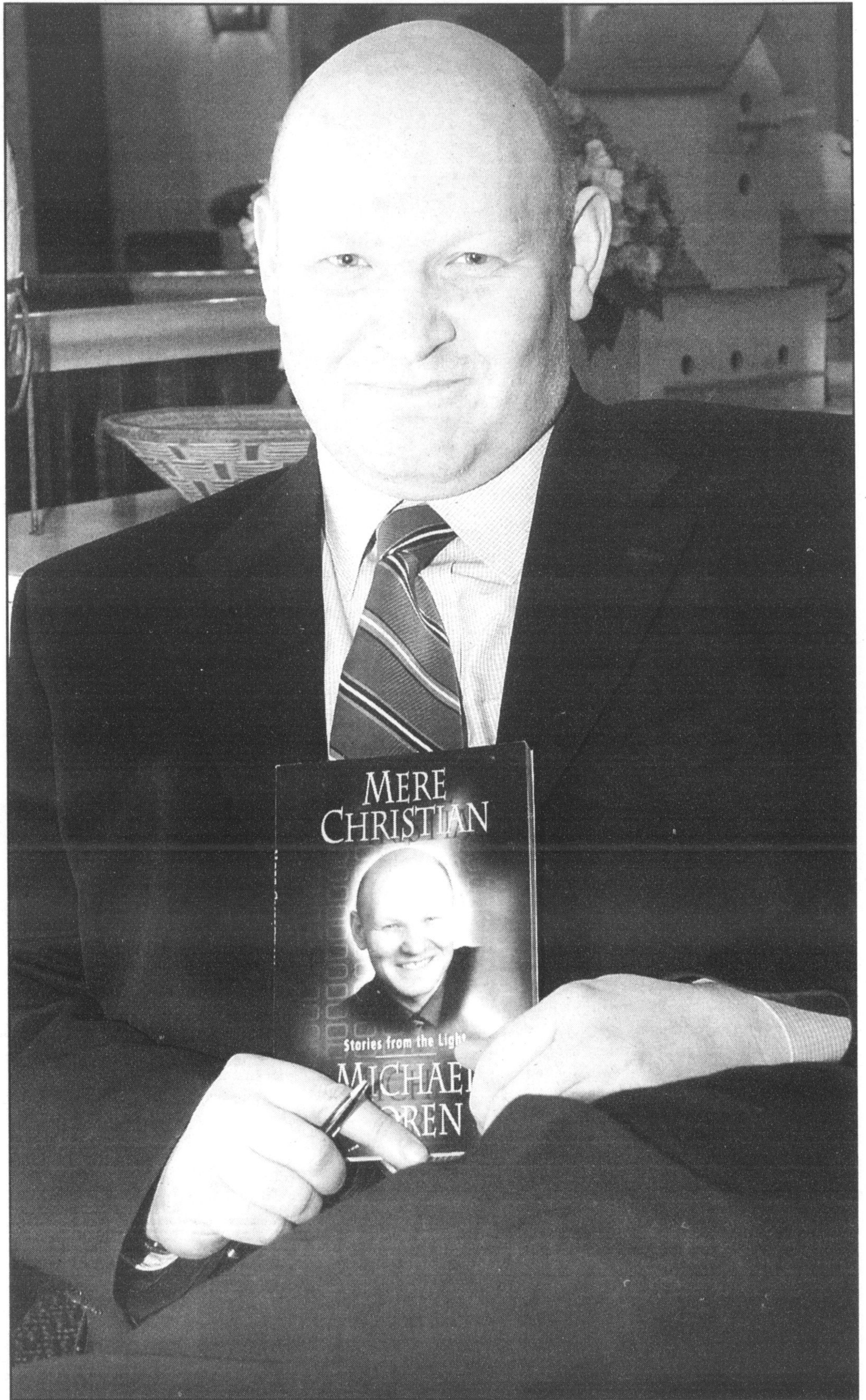


Photo by JILL KITCHENER

Writer and TV and radio host Michael Coren takes a moment to display a copy of his most recent book at the second annual Milton Mayor's Christian Prayer Breakfast, held February 27.

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Programming Schedule – Tuesday, March 9 - Monday, March 15, 2004

Tuesday, March 9		Wednesday, March 10		Thursday, March 11		Friday, March 12		Saturday, March 13		Sunday, March 14		Monday, March 15	
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	7:30pm	Late Week Edition	10:30am	TVCogeco Sports: Halton High School Girls Hockey Final	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition
5:30pm	Seniors Showcase	5:30pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	5:30pm	Oster Health Connection			4:00pm	TVCogeco Sports: Halton High School Girls Hockey Final	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5:30pm	With Good Taste
6:30pm	Optimist TV Bingo (Live)	6:30pm	Be Inspired	6:30pm	Money Week					5:30pm	Be Inspired	6:30pm	Faces-Waldi & Bergama
8:00pm	Halton Hills Council - Mar. 2	7:00pm	Swap Talk (Live)	7:00pm	The Issue Is...					6:30pm	Seniors Showcase	7:00pm	Be Inspired
		8:00pm	Halton Region Council - Mar. 3	8:00pm	Main Street					7:00pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	8:00pm	SportsZone Live (live)
										8:00pm	Money Week		
										8:30pm	Faces - Barnes & Krans		

Halton High School Girls Hockey Final - Sat., 4pm & Sun., 10:30am