

Lack of financial aid discouraging

It was the kind of evening that made you feel fortunate to live in Milton.

It looked like a serene small-town setting in a movie as I went through town. Couples strolled hand-in-hand on the sidewalks, children lapping on ice cream cones tagged along behind their parents, a father pitched to his son on a school diamond, and the fields were filled with softball and soccer players.

At Bishop Reding High School, the Milton Marauders were working out, but I stopped first at one end to watch a girls soccer game. I stayed long enough to see Jacqueline Sincovich score a nice goal for her Arthur Electric-sponsored team, and I smiled when she came off the field and asked if she could get an ice cream later.

All is well, and you'd think it would be especially good at the Marauders practice after ending the Oakville Longhorns' 32-game regular season winning streak. It was big enough news to be an item on the Channel 11 sportscast, and was even in The Toronto Sun.

Coach Barry Emo should be happy, but he's worried, very worried. They've been refused a grant from the Milton Community Fund and now they've got to find \$11,000. Worse, some league fees are still due and the team won't be allowed to participate in the post-season unless they're paid up.

"We thought we were shoo-ins (for funding)," lamented Emo. "We were relying on it. I don't know what we're going to do now."

It costs \$35,000 a year to run the Marauders football program and there's no source of income to speak of. The money comes from fundraisers, a couple of corporate sponsors and the players themselves. They had to go outside of Milton for their corporate sponsors, apart from Bryden's, where the team eats and drinks after practices and games.

Emo is especially disappointed because of how the team attempts to be part of the community by getting involved in charity events. There are even plans to start up a



Out in left field

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

junior football program. "I guarantee you," said Emo, "we give more back and do more for our town than any other team in the league."

To a certain extent, the Marauders put Milton on the map in terms of football. Only the CFL is a higher class in this country than the Northern Football Conference and Milton is easily the smallest centre in which a team is based.

The Marauders were refused a grant because they're not a non-profit organization. The regulations are very clear in this respect, according to Joy Anderson, who's the manager of recreational services for the Town of Milton.

The grant program uses money from the Mohawk Slots.

"Applications are reviewed by CSAC (Community Service Advisory Committee), which is made up of eight community residents. Two councillors are also on that committee. They review the proposals for funds and then forward through me their recommendations for town council," Ms Anderson said.

In three years they've given out \$1.5 million and have supported 150 organizations and 48 businesses. In 2003, for example, grants included \$10,000 to A Capella Showcase to purchase equipment to support increasing membership; \$54,000 to buy an adult ventilator for the Intensive Care Unit at Milton District Hospital; \$12,625 to the Milton Lions Club to upgrade their food booth and dunk tank; and \$4,000 for the Milton Marlins swim team to attend a competition. And several people received up to \$1,000 to compete in

Irish dancing competitions.

"The program is based on activities that enhance the image of the community or the quality of life," said Anderson.

It's obvious that a wide variety of groups and individuals benefit, and that's great. But, the Marauders fall into a grey area. They don't qualify to the letter of the requirements because they're not technically non-profit. They have owners, a necessity to have a team in the NFC. They're local people who wanted to bring football to Milton.

Emo guffaws at the possibility that they could make a profit. Breaking even is more than they can hope for.

The Marauders are legitimate contenders for the national championship, and that certainly qualifies as enhancing the image of the community.

There's an appeal process, which goes through Anderson and then back to the committee. The committee is made up of people who know and care about Milton, so perhaps it will give them cause to re-examine this particular situation.

Finances have to be open to a Town audit, so would the team be willing to give back to the fund any audited profit?

"Absolutely, in a heartbeat," said Emo, adding, "If we can't pay the bills we won't have a team in Milton next year."

That would be a shame, especially with support for the team growing, as witnessed by the crowd of people at the recent game against the Longhorns. People filled the seating areas and the sidelines.

We don't have many teams in this town that could bring us national prominence. This is one of them.

Let's nurture them rather than drive them away.

Midget Sox sweep

On the strength of some high-endurance pitching, the midget Red Sox took down the Mississauga Titans in both halves of a double-header Monday evening.

Sean Mathé went the distance in game one, while Scott McTrach followed suit in the return engagement for 7-2 and 6-2 wins respectively. Ryan Bauer caught both seven-inning contests in impressive fashion.

Milton needed a late rally to prevail in the opening clash, with six runs scored in the fifth inning and another for good measure in the sixth.

Fueled by Justin Moir — who went 3-for-5 — the Red Sox made it a little easier on themselves in game two, jumping ahead right away and wasting little time in tightening the noose.

Fundamentally-sound defense factored into both victories.

Monday's sweep followed an 8-4 loss to the Mississauga Twins Sunday evening at Brian Best Park. Milton led until the sixth inning, thanks in large part to solid pitching and a two-run homer by Jordan Fagin.

Jiu-Jitsu club shines

Milton's junior jiu-jitsu grapplers showed strongly at their own tournament recently, with nearly two dozen competitors securing top-three finishes.

Taking top honours were Danielle Ferri, Heather Gray, Malena Harman, Steven Healey, Steven Prochorowicz, Cristina Steinhauser and Mark Steinhauser.

Devon Brown, Stefan Djolovic, Scott Freer, Michael Giles, Andrew Haiawi, Jorden Healey, Jake Hetherington and Gordon Woodcock placed second, while third-place efforts were posted by Codey Boers, Liliane Ferri, Nick Harman, Thomas Kelly, Samantha Smith and Nicolas Vergoes-Houwens.

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2	ST. GEORGES	11	9	2	0	18
3	ST. PAULS	12	7	5	0	14
4	BOSTON	12	7	5	0	14
5	NEW LIFE "A"	13	7	6	0	14
6	HOLY ROSARY	13	6	6	1	13
7	SOUTH SIDE	12	6	6	0	12
8	MILTON BIBLE	13	6	7	0	12
9	NEW LIFE "B"	11	1	10	0	2
10	HILLCREST	12	0	12	0	0

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Derby Brown

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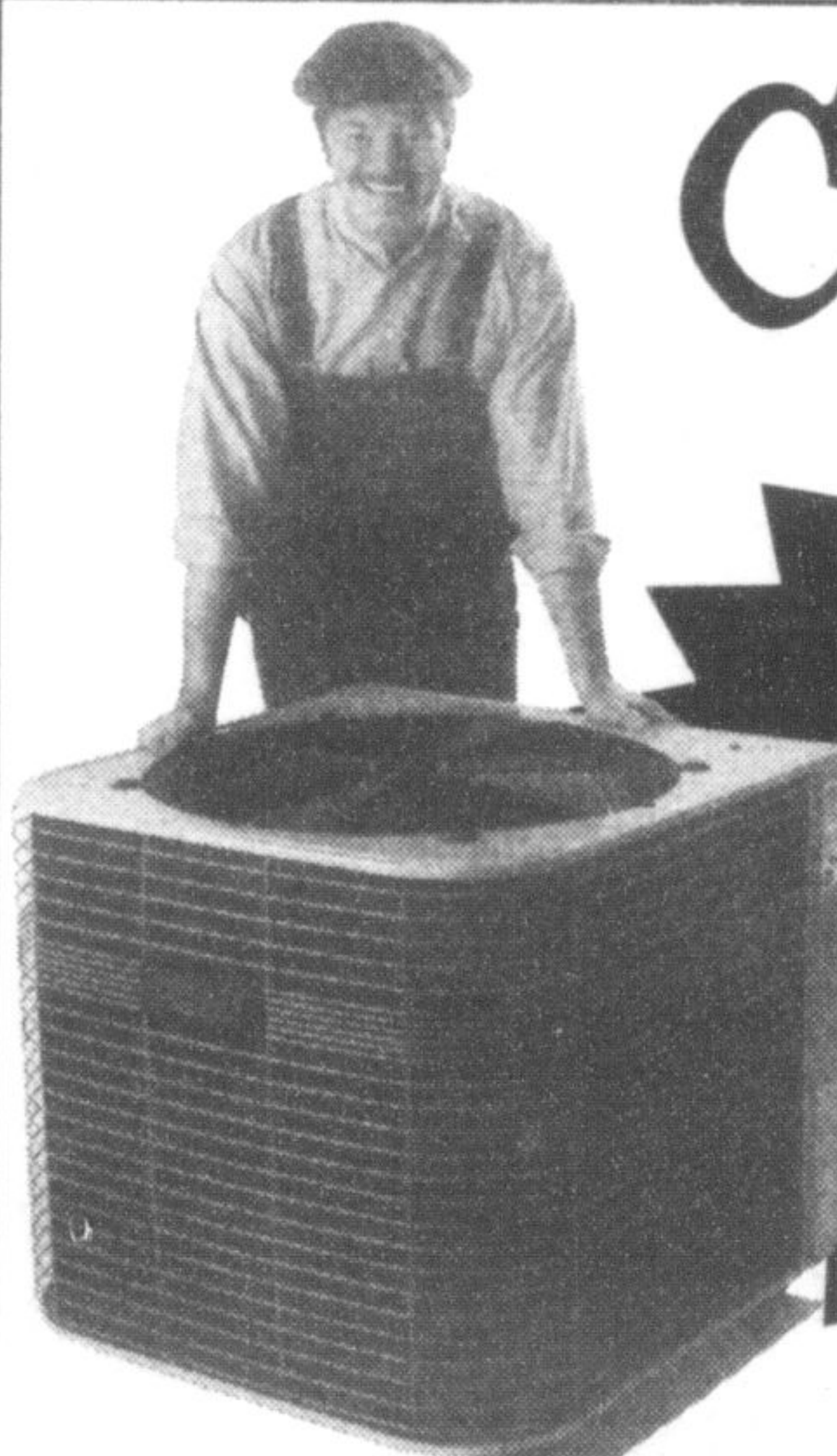
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