Breastfeeding centre opens at hospital

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

Local breastfeeding mothers looking for everything from breast pumps to resource books can now head to the Tender Loving Corner (TLC) at Milton District Hospital.

The service, which was launched about a month ago, provides "anything to do with breastfeeding," said MDH Obstetrics Resource Nurse Jean Gallen.

"It's just a little retail outlet and pump rental depot to complement our breastfeeding clinic," Ms Gallen said.

The TLC rents Medela breast pumps and sells breastfeeding sterilization kits to go along with them. It also carries books, breastfeeding pillows, electric pumps, sterilizers, nipple shields, creams, milk freezer bags, the Heart to Heart baby sling and Fenugreek, a herbal product designed to increase milk supply.

While it's too soon to tell how well used the TLC is, Ms Gallen said she hopes it's going to gain in

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popularity. She pointed out that since last January, 572 babies have been delivered at MDH and of those, 80 per cent of mothers are breastfeeding, indicating a need for a service like TLC.

"We're hoping that it's (TLC) going to grow," she said.

Ms Gallen said before TLC opened, there were only two other places in Milton where new moms could pick up the necessary equipment and accessories for breastfeeding, or they had to travel out of town to get what they needed.

The corner will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m., Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

On Fridays, there's a drop-in session from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. where Ms Gallen said is where breastfeeding mothers can ask questions, have their babies weighed and have informal conversation with other breastfeeding mothers.

To make an appointment for the TLC, call (905) 878-2383, ext. 7030. To speak with Lactation Consultant Jill Hicks, phone the above number, ext. 7610.

Ms Gallen said times are subject to change and advised mothers to call ahead and confirm operational hours.

Money brought in through the TLC will go toward expanding the breastfeeding clinic's hours.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Abuse prevention workshop offered

The Milton Red Cross office will host an abuse prevention workshop January 27 for adults who work with children and youth.

Called Prevention in Motion, the five-hour session will teach how to recognize abuse, the legal requirements for reporting abuse and how to build safer relationships within organizations and communities.

It will also define different types of abuse and explore the barriers and benefits to preventing abuse.

The workshop will be held at the Red Cross' north Halton branch at 100 Nipissing Rd., Unit 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is free, but \$20 is required to purchase a 130-page training workbook.

To register, e-mail amy.woods@red-cross.ca or call (905) 875-1459.

Prevention in Motion is part of the Red Cross' RespectED program, a pilot project that works with youth-serving organizations, sports groups, schools and communities within the region to build a framework for responding to abuse, bullying and harassment.

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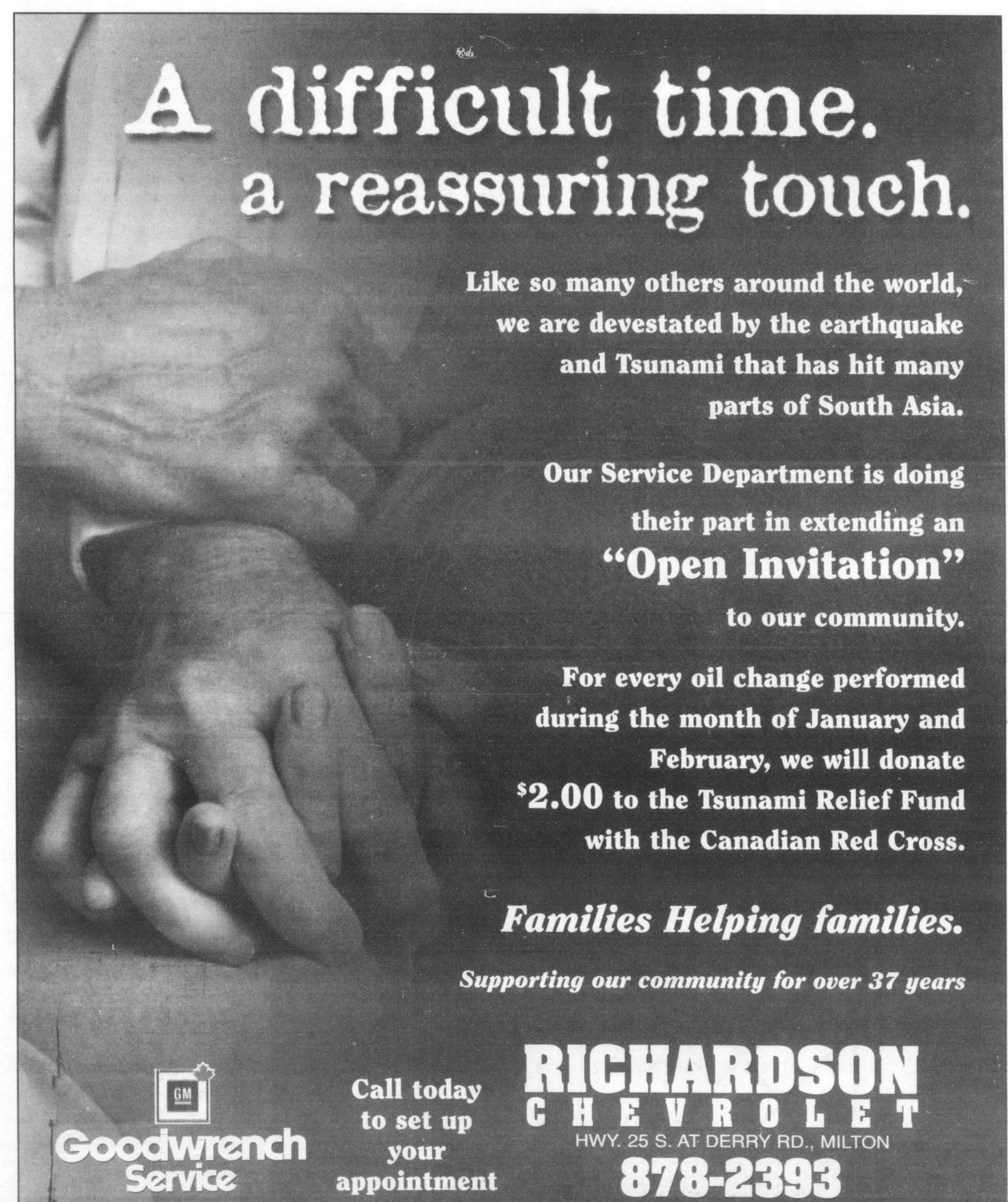
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