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Back to school

Lydia Gibson, 10, is all set for the start of another school year with her new back-to-school outfit (fashions by Suzy Shier). And she's surrounded by an array of must-have backpacks from Bentley at Milton Mall.

Photo by
GRAHAM PAINE

Donations coming in to local Red Cross to help U.S. hurricane victims

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**

The Champion

Milton residents are once again stepping up to the plate to help those left devastated by a natural disaster in another part of the world.

The local Red Cross office reported that in just a mere few days last week, it received \$1,400 in donations to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina in the southern United States.

"We're happy with it (the donations), but we'd obviously like to see more," said Allison Goertzen, community services co-ordinator for the north

Halton Red Cross branch. "We're just thankful and happy for anything that comes through the door."

She said the money the Red Cross has received so far has come from individuals in the community, with the largest single donation being \$500.

She noted the amount the office has received so far has been good, considering an official appeal for donations had yet to be issued as of The Champion's holiday press time Friday afternoon.

While there was an outpouring of help from local children when the Red Cross was raising money for tsunami relief earlier this year, Ms Goertzen said that hasn't happened yet this time around. "But school is starting now, so maybe

we'll see more children," she said.

She said she'd also like to see local businesses pitch in with donations.

Money raised will be forwarded to the American Red Cross and will be used as it sees fit to help the hurricane victims.

While there won't be anyone from the north Halton Red Cross branch heading down south to lend a hand, Ms Goertzen said the Oakville and Burlington branches are both sending representatives trained for disaster response.

She said the Red Cross encourages people to take the training, which is open to everyone in the

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