

# Comment

## Please help hospital; give long-term pledge

Very soon a canvasser representing the Milton District Hospital Foundation may be at your doorstep.

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, the foundation has launched a door-to-door fundraising campaign.

Miltonians are being asked to consider making a long-term pledge to the hospital through the foundation's Monthly Giving program.

By providing pre-authorized payments each month, donors support the foundation's initiative to fund new equipment to safely transfer newborns to other hospitals for testing and special care.

It's another example of the foundation's valuable contributions to the hospital over the last 25 years.

'Charity Ambassadors' are in Milton neighbourhoods Monday through Saturday, excluding major holidays, from noon to 8:30 p.m.

We can't think of a better cause to support as our hospital is vital to the community and everyone uses its services at one time or another.

And with the health-care system grossly underfunded, donations are that much more important to ensure high quality health care.

Milton is lucky to have the hospital foundation. So if a 'Charity Ambassador' does knock on your door, please give generously.



## Our Readers Write

### Skate for Katrina relief a huge success

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank all those who came out for the September 29 Celebrity Skate with Elvis Stojko at the Milton Sports Centre for hurricane relief.

A special thanks goes out to members of the Milton Skating Club for donating their ice time to support this fundraiser.

I'm also grateful to Town of Milton staff, Canadian Red Cross volunteers, Milton Home Hardware, Mr. Vending and the Milton IceHawks — all of whom

offered their time and talents to make this event a success. And let's not forget the Post Office Restaurant, which hosted a get-together afterward for all involved.

Finally, a word of thanks goes out to both Mayor Gord Krantz — our master of ceremonies — and to our star of the evening, Elvis Stojko, for his time, generosity and talent that made the entire event a night to remember.

Father Mark Curtis  
Milton

### Downtown core doesn't deserve obituary

Dear Editor:

In the September 16 Champion, reporter Stephanie Thiessen laments the demise of downtown Milton.

This obituary-type column was in response to seeing a 'For Lease' sign up at a local store. We would suggest that Ms Thiessen visit other towns in Ontario, as these signs appear everywhere.

The fact that there's a turnover of businesses in downtown Milton is normal. When Bi-Way left downtown, the doomsayers were predicting the end of the downtown core, and did so again when Quality Greens packed up. However, those vacancies opened up spots for Bergsma's, Rustic Pear and Wings Up.

And for Ms Thiessen's information, the store she was writing about has already been leased.

As to our 'mini' power centre — Milton Crossroads — to which Ms

Thiessen refers, even a quick glance will show it's still running significantly less than capacity. Most days it's not hard to park right in front of any of the stores. Perhaps Ms Thiessen thinks this is a sign of their imminent demise as well.

It appears that Ms Thiessen wants downtown Milton to be a tourist area, with an abundance of 'cutesy' shops. This isn't Niagara-on-the-Lake. Milton is a thriving community with a healthy mix of commuters and local workers — and few tourists.

As a result, downtown Milton caters to people who live in Milton, with a variety of services and products designed to meet their everyday needs. Need a lawyer, accountant, insurance agent, travel agent, chiropractor or pharmacist? Want a meal, either casual or fancy? Need a mattress, home décor, paint, lighting or picture framing? Want a haircut or manicure? Need clothing —

either men's, women's, children's or bridal? Want jewelry, flowers, a toy, a bike or a computer? You can get all of this plus much more in downtown Milton.

While we appreciate Ms Thiessen's concern for downtown, we feel it would be much better served with an honest assessment of the role downtown plays in the local retail environment rather than by the prediction of an untimely end.

As downtown business people, we're not the first to have been buried before our time by newspaper reports with inaccurate information.

One hundred and 10 years ago Mark Twain had the same problem and we can't think of a better response than his — "The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

Laurie and Moe Hartley  
Milton

E-mail all your letters to the editor to [miltomed@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltomed@haltonsearch.com).

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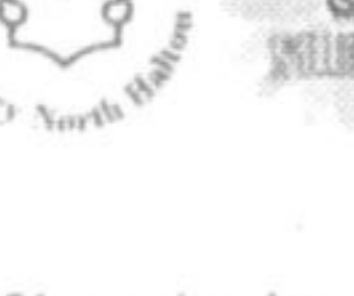
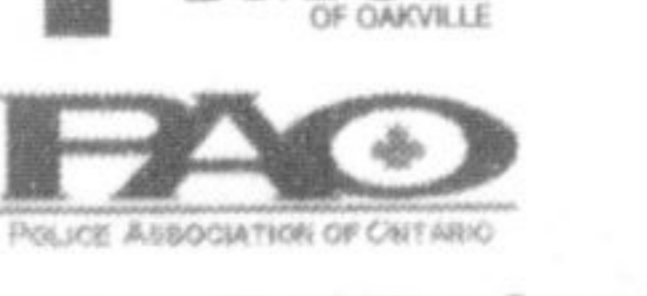


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by Steve Nease

