

**MILTON** THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON  
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**Town of Milton Community Fund**  
**MILTON COMMUNITY FUND**

Town of Milton Council has approved the distribution of \$535,575 in Milton Community Fund grants to 38 organizations and 11 individuals in 2005. The purpose of this funding program is to provide financial support for activities that enhance the quality of life within Milton or enhance the image of the Town. In the last few months of 2005, Milton Council has approved support to an individual named Kamil Karbonowski and the following organizations whose proposals varied from equipment needs and volunteer training, to program development and expansion initiatives.

- Air Cadets - 820 Squadron
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Community Living North Halton
- Food for Thought
- Halton Children's Aid Society
- Halton Healthcare Services Corp.
- Halton Women's Place
- John Howard Society of Peel-Halton
- Mavericks Jr. B Lacrosse Inc.
- Milton Community Nursery School
- Milton Lacrosse Association
- Milton Marlin Swim Team
- Milton Masters Aquatic Club
- Milton Music Teachers Association
- Milton Scorpions - Basketball for Special Needs
- Milton Skating Club
- Milton Youth Soccer Club
- North Halton Girls Hockey Association
- Ontario Steam & Antique Preservers Association
- The Children's Hour
- Victorian Order of Nurses

For more information about the fund and this round of approved grants, please visit our website at [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca) or contact Joy Anderson, Manager, Recreation Services at 905-878-7252, ext. 2604.

# Mom desperate for return of disabled son's hockey gear

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
*The Champion*

It's less than two weeks until Christmas, and Joyce Sanderson is feeling anything but in a holiday mood. At a time when people often do a little more to help their fellow man, Ms Sanderson is wondering what kind of person would steal something that meant so much to her 13-year-old disabled son — his hockey equipment.

And she's pleading with whoever took the equipment to anonymously return it. Hopefully, once that person learns the story behind the equipment, his or her heart will soften, she said.

"Right now, I'm just so distraught," she added. On Saturday, Ms Sanderson took her son, Gregory, to his ice hockey game, as usual.

The games are always a bright spot for her son, who suffers from a developmental learning disability called Fragile X Syndrome as well as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Progressive Developmental Delay.

The boy rushed inside like usual, as getting from the car to his Ontario Street apartment causes him great anxiety. His hockey bag was wet, so his mom told him to leave it in the hall until he got settled inside.

But then she forgot it. When she realized her mistake and went to get the bag several hours later, it was gone.

Inside the bag was about \$600 worth of hockey equipment including his skates, jerseys, various protective pads, a throat protector, a helmet, a pair of new hockey gloves and more.

Ms Sanderson said she feels sick over the situation. As a single mom struggling to make ends meet with a disabled son, Christmas was a big enough hurdle to get over. She said she was depending on her Zellers points (HBC Rewards) to get Greg a present.

And then this happened. Without the equipment, Greg can't play ice or ball hockey since, she said, she can't afford to replace it.

Sports, the mom said, are Greg's life. Every Saturday, he plays on the Special Hockey International league, which is made up of 50 teams across Canada. It's on the ice that Greg shines, she said.

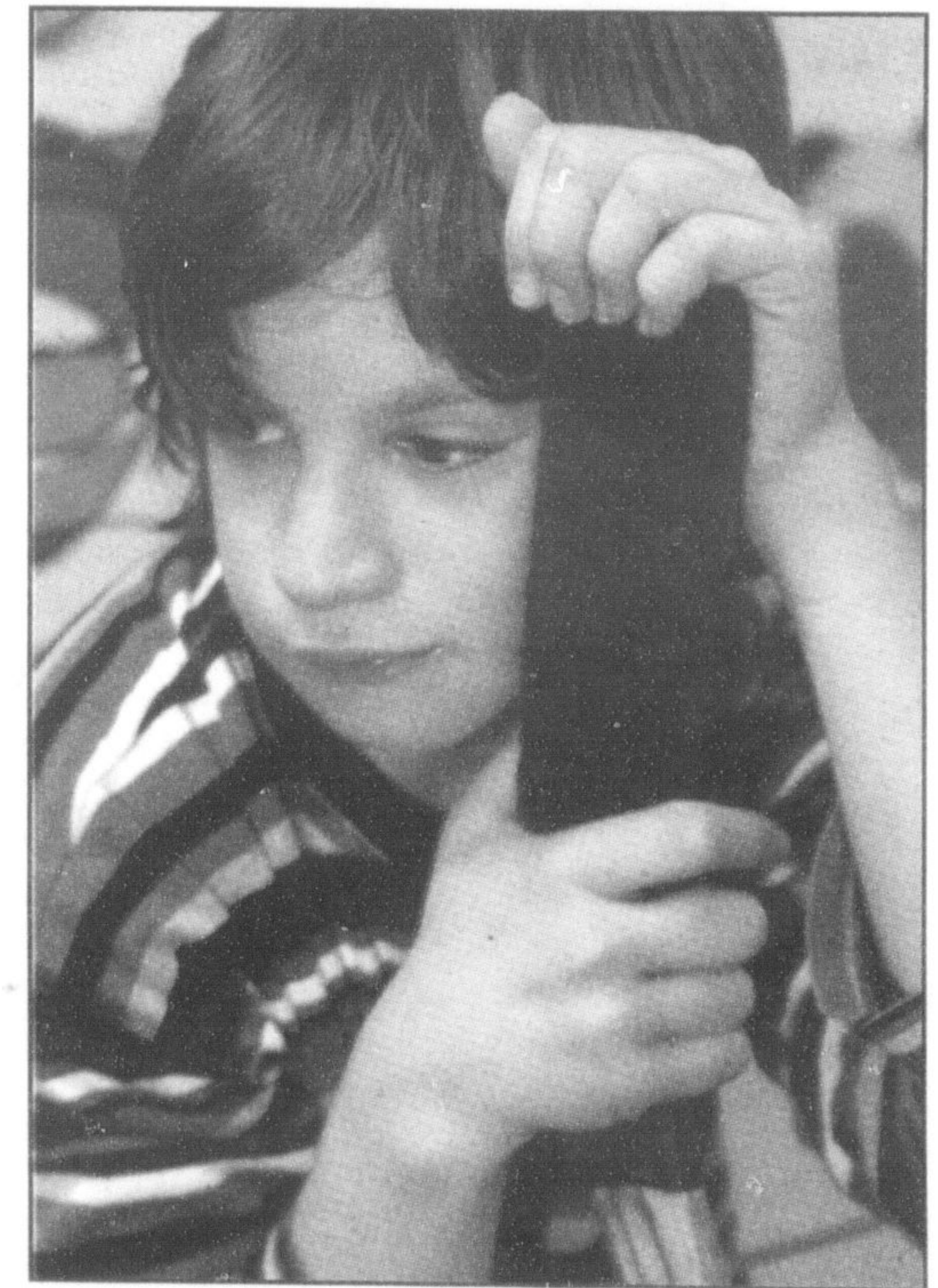


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

**Gregory Sanderson, 13, hopes to get his hockey equipment back so he can play again.**

"That's where his world is. That's where his confidence is."

The night the bag was stolen, Ms Sanderson said she cried. She walked down the street checking out all the garbage bins, but with no luck. When she told Greg what happened, he was broken-hearted, she said.

"He keeps saying, 'They're going to bring the bag home, right mom?'" Ms Sanderson said.

What she wants this Christmas season is simple. "I'd like the bag back. I'd like to feel that there are good people out there, which I know there is."

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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