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United Way happy with \$430,000

By Stephanie Thiessen
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A dollar can only stretch so far. Nobody knows that better than the folks at the United Way of Milton, who recently announced its 2005 campaign had raised \$430,000 falling short of its goal by \$45,000.

But executive director Anne Eadie said she's not looking negatively at the shortfall, realizing there were international disasters to which Miltonians generously contributed in 2005 like the tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Pakistan.

"We're not looking at this as a negative thing," Eadie said. "We didn't reach what we thought we'd like to, but it was still a successful campaign."

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EYE-POPPING EXPERIENCE: Six-year-old Calvin Taziar keeps a close eye on the moves of the six-year-old northern pine snake he's holding during a presentation by the Toronto Nature Centre at Milton Mall Tuesday. It was part of the mall's March Break activities.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Murder victim's family speaks to court

By Stephanie Thiessen
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The widow of Milton resident Brian Stockton, who was murdered two years ago in a blazing car, said her husband's biggest fear was dying in a fire, a Milton court heard yesterday.

"He said he could handle anything else, but not a fire. He'd been burned before, and he said the pain and suffering are unbearable," said Anne Stockton in a victim impact statement at Superior Court of Justice. "I can only hope his God took him before he suffered in the fire, his worst fear."

She explained that when Stockton was 13,

he was electrocuted, resulting in both his legs being amputated below the knees.

Michael McDonough, 41, of Halton Hills, and 49-year-old John McClatchey of Mississauga, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and manslaughter respectively in the death of Stockton, who was 48 when he was killed in June of 2004.

McDonough — who admitted to burning Stockton to death — did so because he thought Stockton was already dead and he wanted to hide the evidence, defence lawyer John Rosen told the court.

Rosen told Justice Bruce Durno that McDonough had gotten into an argument with Stockton after an evening of drinking.

Things got out of control and he stabbed Stockton five times with a knife, court heard.

Stockton's body was discovered burned beyond recognition after crews from the Milton Fire Department extinguished a blazing car behind Trafix transport company on Regional Road 25, just north of Hwy. 401.

Adjacent to Trafix was a second crime scene where a pool of blood was found, in front of McKeown Collision.

A second-degree murder conviction comes with an automatic life prison sentence. But Crown Attorney Laurie Jago and Rosen argued over the period of time McDonough should have to wait before being eligible for parole.

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