

# OPINION

## Thanks, volunteers

As National Volunteer Week kicked off Sunday, we should all take a moment to appreciate the efforts of those who make Milton the attractive town it is.

The social fabric and health of our community would undoubtedly unravel without the Herculean effort provided by huge numbers of volunteers within the many organizations that lend aid, comfort and support to the sick and a simple helping hand to the down-trodden.

Such hugely-popular events as the Milton Fall Fair, Milton Steam-Era, Canada Day celebration and Milton Santa Claus Parade would be impossible to organize if not for the hundreds of residents who donate time and effort while expecting little in return.

Without the massive

undertaking of hundreds more residents involved in community clean-ups, our town's streets, parks and waterways would remain polluted and a constant embarrassment for every citizen of our town.

Organized leagues in every sport, youth organizations such as Scouting and Guiding and the day-to-day operation of local places of worship would collapse and fail if volunteers didn't lift a hand to help out.

Culturally, our city would be much less vibrant without the daily contribution of volunteers within local museums, performing arts groups and numerous clubs for the artistically gifted.

Sadly, too few of us take up the cause of giving back to the community that has given each of us so much. It's about time that changed.

NEWS ITEM:  
Toronto does  
homeless count...



## ReadersWrite

Send us your letters to [miltoned@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltoned@haltonsearch.com) or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

## Region has done its fair share to make recycling convenient

DEAR EDITOR:

I feel for poor Catherine McKinnon, who wrote a letter entitled 'Recycling pick-up should be weekly', I truly do. It's an undeniable tragedy that in this world today she should suffer so much.

Forget the fact that a young man was beaten with a bat in one of our local parks or that a 13-year-old girl was preyed upon by a deviant via the Internet, not to mention that our newly-elected prime minister is aiming to set gay rights back a century or that our brave men and women continue to die in Afghanistan. These are such trivial matters in a world that forces poor, distraught Catherine to remember to put out her Blue Box every second week.

Think this one through, Catherine. Rather than making a little mark in your calendar every second Wednesday to help you remember, Halton Region should change its policy and pick up your recycling every week.

Forget the implications to the Region's budget, or — for that matter — the impact to your taxes next year. "Damn you, Halton, wake up and change your evil ways!"

And it's not like Halton made this easy for you to remember. I mean, come on, that pathetic excuse for a calendar called Curb Appeal that you received in the mail that tells you which week you are with that stupid cartoon Blue Box with an A or B beside it each and every Wednesday. What a load of crap!

And who cares that Halton even offers an environmentally-friendly elec-

tronic version of the calendar at <http://www.halton.ca/ppw/waste/pdf/Milton/MILTON%20URBAN%20CALENDAR%202006.pdf>. Let's destroy more of Mother Earth because Catherine finds recycling "a real pain."

You've lived in Milton for six years and Brampton before that, yet recycling still hasn't become a normal part of your life. Are there any other habits that you would like Halton to help you with? Perhaps Halton could help you remember your birthday or your wedding anniversary. They do only come around once a year — how could you possibly remember them?

And if on your street only "maybe half of the residents are recycling," then maybe it's time you did something about it. Talk to those neighbours. Let them know that if not for us, then at least for our children and theirs, we should try to take care of this precious earth.

So the next time you take a long, hard look at yourself in the mirror, repeat after me — "I, Catherine McKinnon, resolve to stop blaming others for my inability to remember to recycle every other week and (insert other issues here). I will go into this beautiful and bountiful world each day and celebrate the roof over my head, the food on my table and the life beating through my heart. I Catherine McKinnon, accept full responsibility for myself, my life and my choices." I feel better for you already, Catherine.

JAN HAPANOWICZ  
MILTON

## Thanks to all emergency personnel for their efforts

DEAR EDITOR:

On December 23, 2005, my brother Brian, here from Vancouver with his wife and children for our family's Christmas, suffered a fatal heart attack.

We're writing to thank the numerous emergency service personnel who did everything they could to save his life.

From the 911 operator who immediately dispatched an ambulance, to the two paramedic/ambulance personnel who were at the house within four minutes, to the five firemen who arrived shortly thereafter to assist, to the police officers who stopped traffic so the ambulance could make a faster trip to the hospital, to the emergency room doctors, nurses and staff at Milton District Hospital, all worked in an extremely professional and compassionate manner.

Our thanks as well to the volunteer councillor from the Halton Police Victim Services Unit who met with us at the hospital and came to our house to work with the children and family in trying to cope with this unexpected loss.

On Christmas Eve, one day after this devastating event, our family was moved by the arrival of members of the Milton Fire Department, who came to our home with stuffed toys for the children, a soft afghan and food and to speak to Brian's young son. Words can't possibly express how extremely grateful and thankful we are.

On behalf of my family, I want to extend our gratitude to the exceptional men and women who serve our community as emergency services personnel. We have experienced first hand their skill and professionalism, as well as the incredible humanity and compassion they bring to their work.

Thank you all.

GLEN SCHMIDT AND FAMILY  
MILTON

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