My granddaughter has imaginary friend

don't have any problems playing games with my granddaughter's imaginary friend, but do have one with losing to her all the time.

My granddaughter has an imaginary friend by the name of Emily. When I play cards with my granddaughter she gives all the good cards to Emily. Not herself and not me, but Emily.

Emily's a cheater as far as I'm concerned, which is why I don't like her. And who wants to win that way, anyway?

Imaginary friends are not that unusual. For example, if I was your friend, I'd be like an imaginary friend. And my newest granddaughter doesn't do much besides sleep, so she's kind of like an imaginary friend as well.

My daughter isn't thrilled with Emily either, especially when she has to make her



On the loose

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

lunch and put it on a plate. Mind you, she shouldn't worry too much unless she comes back and the plate is empty.

Now, of course imaginary friends have been known to actually be real, at least in the horror movies, so I've been conducting my own set of tests to ensure we're not living in an

episode of the Twilight Zone. I don't want to get, "wished into the cornfield."

I figure I can outsmart a three-year-old, at least some of the time. When she mentions that Emily is there, I ask a quick set of questions, some designed to fool her. I might ask what colour is her hat or what colour are her boots. My granddaughter gives an answer each time, and never says she isn't wearing hats or boots.

Also, when my granddaughter says Emily is a certain place, I say no, she's over here. Works every time, so I'm fairly confident Emily isn't

My daughter thinks having Emily around is a little creepy, but I did some research. One see IMAGINARY on page B3

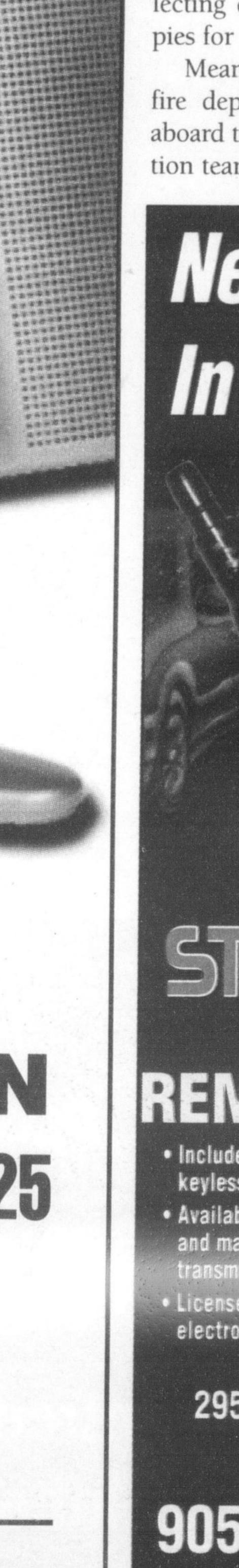
Teams hold food drives

Two of Milton's youngest rep hockey teams are getting into the spirit of giving a little early this year.

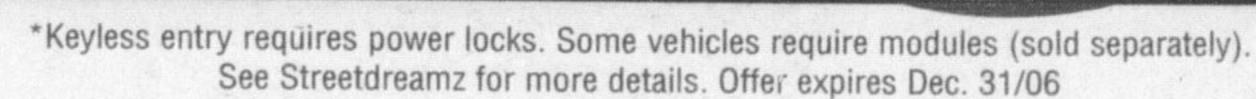
The Winterhawks' additional entry novices and atoms will both be involved in food drive efforts, with the novices collecting non-perishable food items in the Dorset Park area from noon to 1 p.m. tomorrow. They'll drop off their collective food drive donation at the fire department's Central Station on Steeles Avenue Monday afternoon.

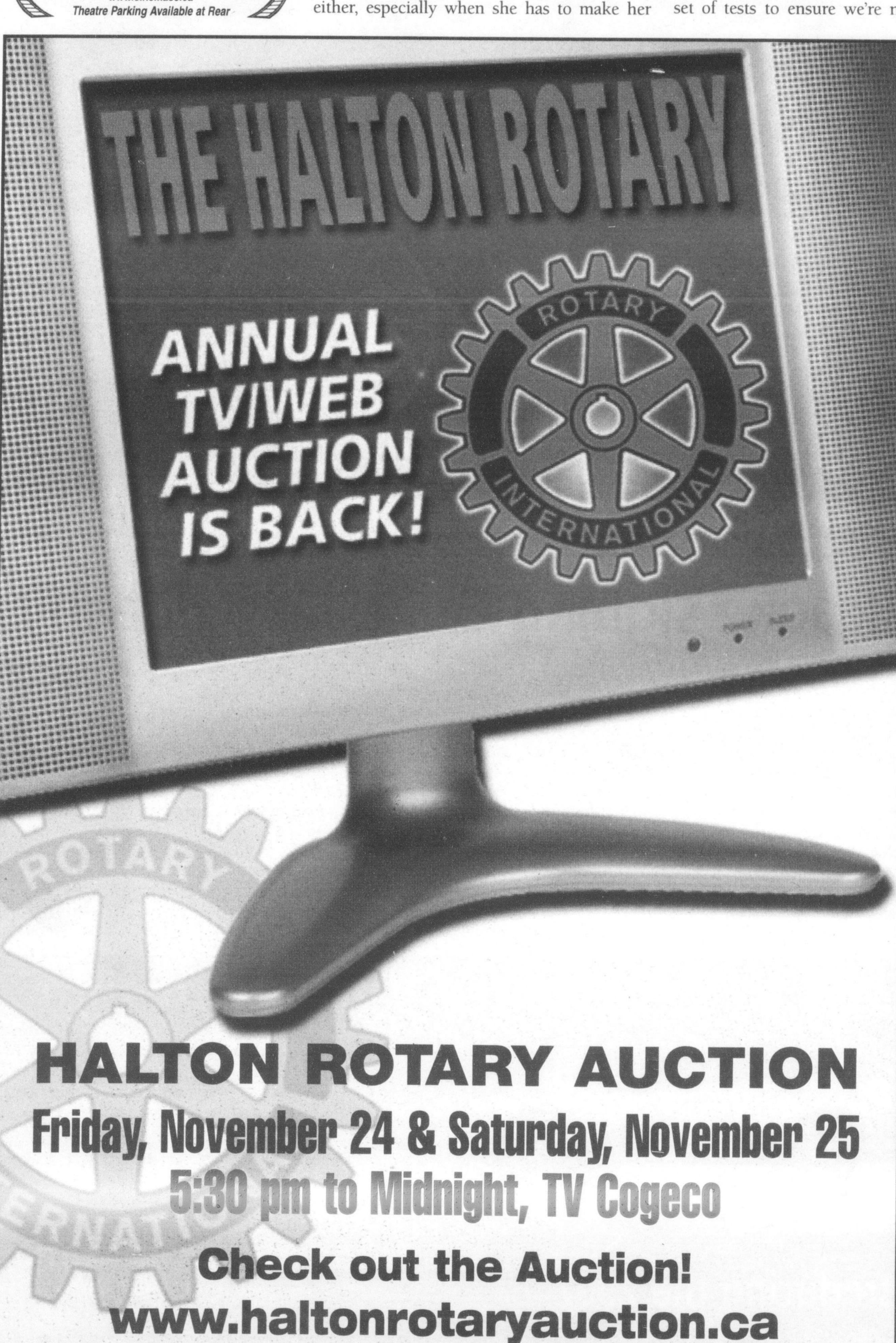
"The community has been good to us, so we've basically just decided to give something back," said novice AE Winterhawks co-coach Karen Brown. "Our boys will be collecting donations while the mothers will be making apple pies for another fundraiser."

Meanwhile, the atoms will donate their time to the local fire department's annual drive December 2. They'll hop aboard the fire trucks that morning and be part of the collection team.









All proceeds to local Youth Programs!