

# Private funding is not the only help available for disabled kids

DEAR EDITOR:

I'm very interested in replying to some recent articles about baby Holly, the child diagnosed with schizencephaly, and the many fundraising efforts on her behalf.

I'm a proud mother myself of a charming and beautiful two-and-a-half-year-old daughter with special needs — a brain malformation that was first identified at four months of age, yet remains undiagnosed. This has resulted in significant global developmental disabilities, including but not limited to, her not yet walking or talking.

I want to speak out on behalf of myself and the many others in Milton who I have met through the 'free' services that Halton Region has offered us. We waited for Maitlyn's MRIs and numerous rounds of chromosome tests at local hospitals, including Credit Valley, Trillium and Sick Kids, as well as for research studies in Boston and British Columbia.

They were all covered free of charge through our OHIP services and/or the Ministry of Community and Social Services due to her genetic condition, not our family income.

I have had the good fortune of meeting with highly skilled and caring medical professionals, including Maitlyn's pediatrician, geneticist and neurologist — who are continually monitoring her progress.

We appreciate also the orthotic specialists who made her foot braces on the premises and her occupational therapist

and developmental consultant through the Region of Halton, who serviced us until Maitlyn turned two.

Then Maitlyn went to Erinoak — Services for Children with Special Needs, which took over with their team of physical, occupational and speech therapists. Thanks also to the staff at Tiny Tim Development School here in Milton, integration of which is subsidized by the government, regardless of our income, to offer Maitlyn opportunities with her peers for less than the cost of lunch out at Tim Hortons. Thanks to Maitlyn's wonderful toddler room staff and resource worker at Tiny Tim, who offer such great care and attention, and in doing so arranged for her a one-to-one teaching assistant after recognizing her need for extra support.

Our children require constant therapy to reach their full growth potential, and though the developmental services are often offered just once a week, based on needs, they teach us the techniques to work with our children ourselves. These are skills that we practise in our homes repeatedly throughout each day, to meet their therapy needs.

Of course we each want more for our children, and there are many parents out there who are less public, but their stories are no less heart-wrenching.

There are so many others to thank, including those at the Ontario Early Years Centre, who through their special needs sup-

port groups introduced me to so many moms in similar circumstances. I am grateful for the respite funding available to us, regardless of family income. This allows our family the quality time we each deserve together, including our patient son Cameron, who is always so concerned for his baby sister.

I don't begrudge Holly's family's desire to find answers and encourage the developmental and social opportunities for their child.

But perhaps they and others who are shocked with the realization of their new circumstances should know that we can manage just fine with the many resources at our fingertips that are offered — regardless of income. Private funding isn't the only answer.

I want people to know that these services exist, and that they can support these agencies and programs with their generous donations to service the growing number of children with special needs in our community.

I want Holly's parents to know that they're not alone with their worries, and that I'm sorry they have to go through the anxiety and anticipation that we also experience about our daughter's future, as the gap between her and her peers continues to widen.

Here's hoping that Holly gets the best of Regional services, like my sweet Maitlyn, in due time.

**KAREN FYFFE  
BEATY TRAIL**

# Fire safety should be practised everywhere

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restaurant, make note of the exits. All it takes is a quick glance, and a moment of your time.

Frequently in emergencies, people tend to try and exit a building the same way that they entered, even if this means going right past another exit that would lead them to safety more quickly.

So as you go about your busy routines this

month, please take a few moments to consciously think about fire safety to protect yourself and your loved ones. It only takes a moment.

And if you have a question about fire safety at this or any other time of the year, Milton firefighters stand ready to help. Just give us a call.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

**LARRY BRASSARD  
MILTON FIRE CHIEF**

# Milton not likely to be forced into building house of refuge

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of *The Champion* and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

February 1909

The people of Halton will be glad to hear that they are not likely to be forced to go to the great expense of erecting and maintaining a house of refuge. Dr. W. Bruce Smith, Inspector of Hospital and Charities, told the committee from the county council, who waited on him last week, that the Government would be satisfied if the county would arrange to have Halton's indigents cared for in the house of refuge of some other county, the expense to be met by this county, not by the minor municipalities. As it has been found necessary to build an addition to Peel's house of refuge at Brampton it is likely that arrangements will be made to have the Halton indigents cared for in it and sufficient accommodation provided, if the county council of Peel approves.

Louisa Knight, widow of the late John White, ex. M.P. for Halton, died at her home here. Born at Hamilton in 1822, daughter of Dey Knight and Sarah Springer, both Loyalist families. They had come to Canada from Maine about 1812. On the mother's side Mrs. White was descended from Baron and Archbishop Springer, of Holland, whose son Bishop Springer of Wilmington was the first Church of England bishop of Delaware. She was married to Mr. White, Feb. 15th, 1849. The couple lived at Palermo for a short time and removed to Milton in 1855. The service was from Knox Church.

On Friday evening the Milton Intermediate team went to Galt to play the first match in the semi-finals. They were accompanied by about 100 rooters. They were defeated by a score of 4-3. There were complaints about the referee. Milton team: Goal H. Sinclair; point Ryder; cover Lott; rover Fleming; centre

**Milton  
Time  
Capsules**



Smith; right M. Telfer; left S. Cook.

The second game of the round was played here on Tuesday evening before a large crowd, who had a long wait on account of the train from Galt being an hour late. The game did not begin until after 9 o'clock. At half time Milton led 3-2 and at the finish 8-4 making their total for the two games 11 to 8 and giving them the championship of the two districts, Nos. 4 and 6. Milton will now go up against Ingersoll, champions of two Western Ontario districts.

Milton is now out of the race for the O.H.A. Intermediate championship. In both games of their round with Ingersoll they were unfortunate in having to play on soft ice. In Milton on Friday night there was no water on the ice, but it was decidedly soft. At the end of the first half they led 4-1 but in the second the cheese makers duplicated, making the figures at the finish 5 all. Milton had the puck most of the time, their forwards doing great shooting, cut Cross in goal played a star game and stopped all kinds of shots. The ice was worse still at Ingersoll on Monday evening. It was rough and covered with water. At half time the score was 4-0 in favor of Ingersoll. In the second half each team scored one goal and the final figures were 5-1 making the final figures of the round Ingersoll 10, Milton 6.

Manager Guidal of P.L. Robertson Co. has returned from Montreal, where he spent some time arranging for the importation from England of wire-drawing machinery. It will arrive here in about two months and will be installed in the new building which is about to be erected for it.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached at [jdills@idirect.com](mailto:jdills@idirect.com).

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