

Trust fund set up for fire victim

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A trust fund has been set up for a local woman who lost everything — including her two beloved pets — when her motor home went up in flames early Monday morning.

Joanne Tardiff, 41, was sleeping when her two pit bulls, Sugar and Whitie, woke her up. She opened her eyes to a wall of flames in front of the door, and escaped by kicking open a small window above her bed and crawling through it, she said.

Unfortunately, the dogs didn't make it.

"Those dogs were my kids," Tardiff told The Champion Tuesday. "I just hope the dogs didn't suffer too much."

Tardiff was sent to hospital for third-degree burns on her hands and smoke inhalation.

She had been staying on the property of an acquaintance in the area of First Line and Britannia Road for about two weeks before the fire broke out.

The motor home wasn't insured.

Milton Fire Department training technician Barry Kory said the fire was caused by a propane heater inside the trailer. It wasn't a heater that was designed for closed spaces, he said.

Tardiff, who's currently on disability leave, is now relying on friends to give



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Joanne Tardiff surveys the remains of her motor home, which was destroyed by fire.

her a place to stay, she said, adding she has no family.

"I don't have anything," she said.

But the loss of her dogs — one still a puppy, the other 10 years old — is what hits the hardest.

"Those dogs were my kids," she said.

A woman in a local pharmacy was kind enough to give her a coat and \$15, she said.

Lisa Broatch, a long-time friend who

set up the fund, is hoping Miltonians will be generous with their donations, particularly with it being Christmastime.

"She has no clothes, nothing," Broatch said.

Donations can be made to the Joanne Tardiff fund at any branch of TD Canada Trust. The trust fund account number is 00656272637.

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To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call 1-877-617-1275 and enter ID #3020. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.


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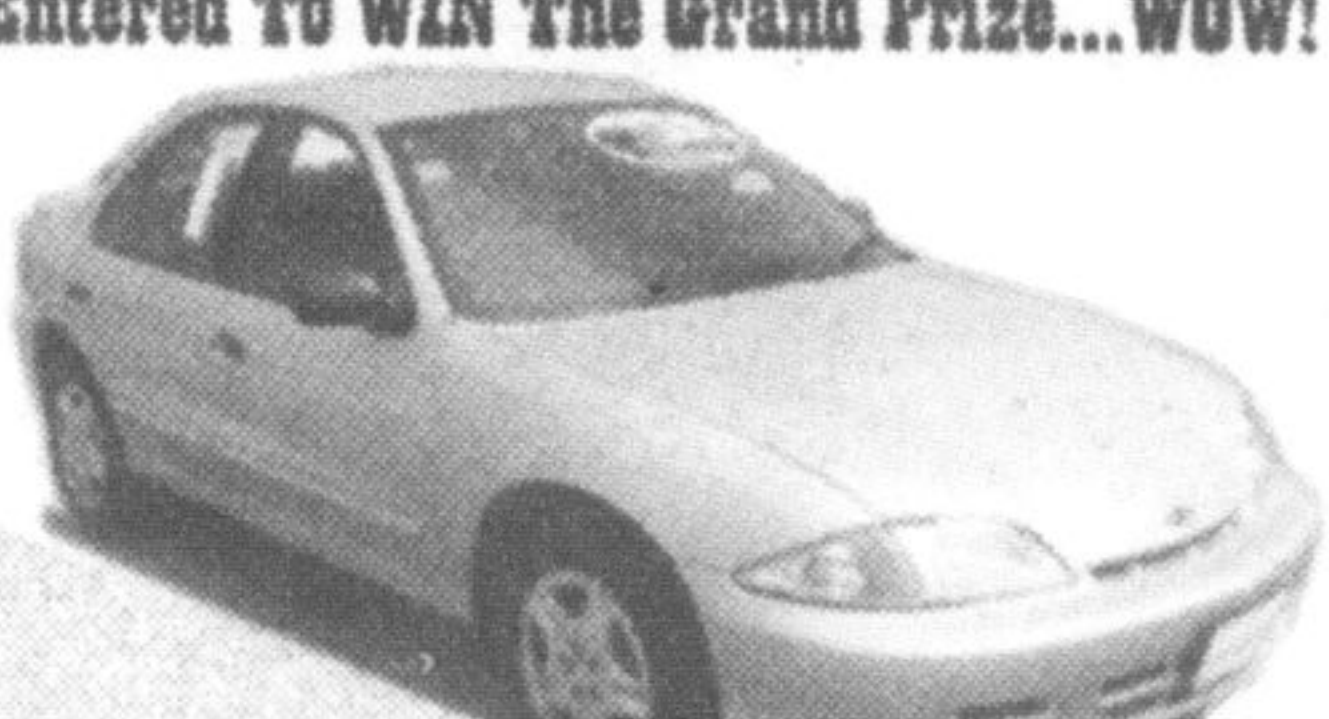
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