

OPINION

Still something to be proud of

It's understandable that one might feel disappointed that the local Salvation Army's 2007 holiday fundraising drive didn't quite meet its \$170,000 goal.

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, the annual fundraiser topped out at a little over \$155,658, marking the first time in at least five years that it fell short. Luckily, kettle contributions were up significantly from 2006, which helped offset the drastic drop in walk-in donations.

We're left scratching

our heads, trying to understand the reason for the decline in giving, especially considering the town's booming population.

However, the thousands that were raised — thanks to private citizens, community groups and businesses — in such a relatively short period of time is still a great feat and one to be proud of.

The final tally is a significant amount and will do well to help the Salvation Army continue its humanitarian work for families over the holidays and throughout the year.



ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to miltoned@haltonsearch.com.

Banning book big mistake

DEAR EDITOR:

I have to take issue with the Halton Catholic District School Board's ban on the book 'The Golden Compass.'

While this decision was certainly within the trustee's purview as a democratically elected body, I feel the board has made a dramatic mistake in not allowing their students to be exposed to this novel.

Books such as The Golden Compass present "teachable moments" for students. The book provides readers with the opportunity to critically analyze what the author is saying about their faith.

To limit access to these types of books lessens the ability of students to develop the skills necessary to broaden

their understanding about what it means to be Catholic and explain those beliefs to others.

Good debaters always know the other point of view, so they can develop their own arguments. By instituting a ban, the board has shown that critical analysis isn't an important skill for their students to develop.

Moreover, the real absence of any opposition from the church hierarchy, other school boards and even the board's own book committee I think shows this decision was made in haste, and was likely politically motivated.

I would hope the board re-considers this ban as expeditiously as possible.

JOE HENRY
LANCASTER BOULEVARD

Animal shelter indeed needed in Milton

DEAR EDITOR:

That was a great article the *Champion* did recently on the need for a Milton Humane Society. I couldn't agree more.

I adopted one of my cats at the Oakville and District Humane Society, another one at the Mississauga Humane Society and my dog from the Toronto Humane Society. Each experience was joyful but also saddening, knowing that so many animals need homes. I wish I could help them all.

My sister had her cat go missing for two months. And for those months she called and went to the Oakville and District Humane Society over and over again, hoping that her cat was brought in. They were great there and two

months after her cat went missing it was found. A kind gentleman had found her and drove her to the Oakville and District Humane Society.

What would have happened if he couldn't drive out of town or didn't know where the Oakville shelter was? Would my sister's cat never have been brought to a shelter? Maybe if anyone else found her they'd have left her, since there's no humane society here.

We don't want to think about that but instead we think about what if Milton had a shelter. Maybe she would have been brought in sooner and maybe the reunion would have been earlier than two months.

ANN-MARIE WALTZ
MILTON

Donation to our family such a surprise blessing

DEAR EDITOR:

We'd like to thank everyone who was involved with the 12th annual Leslie Wells Slo-Pitch Tournament, especially those people who were kind enough to nominate and choose our family.

We were very shocked when we were presented with a wonderful donation from them December 18. We were pleasantly surprised to find out that there are so many good people out there who really do care and were willing to help us through a difficult time.

Our son Kristopher is 14 months old and has had to deal with many health issues during the first year of life. Unfortunately this will be an ongoing process for us. Kristopher hasn't been diagnosed yet and we are still in the testing stages, but we do know he has special needs.

This donation will be used to help with the costs that occur on a regular basis, such as gas and parking for our many visits to McMaster Children's Hospital, physiotherapy, to get prescriptions, diapers and formula, etc.

We're extremely touched by the kindness and generosity that has been shown to us and would like to let those people involved know how much we truly appreciate it. The best part is that we can use this wonderful gift as a lesson to teach our children about how important it is to give to people when they truly need it. You guys gave us more than a donation, you gave us hope and encouragement to keep on truckin'.

We hope to one day start our own charity for other families in our community who are going through the waiting, wondering and testing that we are now. We want to be able to help others the way you've helped us.

If anyone is interested in learning more about our son Kristopher or our family, you can visit us at <http://kbrownandbmoore.spaces.live.com/> as we are continually updating our blog.

KRISTA BROWN, BRAD, ERIKA
AND KRISTOPHER MOORE
MILTON

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