

# OPINION

## Help keep food bank shelves full

This weekend, when we spend a moment or two counting our blessings, we mustn't forget those for whom there's so much less to be thankful.

As we shelter ourselves from the rain and cold and gather around the diningroom table with those most dear to us, it's important not to forget thousands of Halton residents who go hungry each year.

Single or married, young or old, unemployed or among the working poor, more and more these too easily marginalized members of our community find it impossible to include a nutritional diet in their monthly budget.

Through a practically effortless act we can prevent people from going hungry this Thanksgiving weekend — and throughout the rest of the year.

If you're planning to grocery shop for the holiday Monday, why not pick up a few extra cans of non-perishable food.

Non-perishable canned and dried food items are in the highest demand at the local food bank operated by the Salvation Army of Milton.

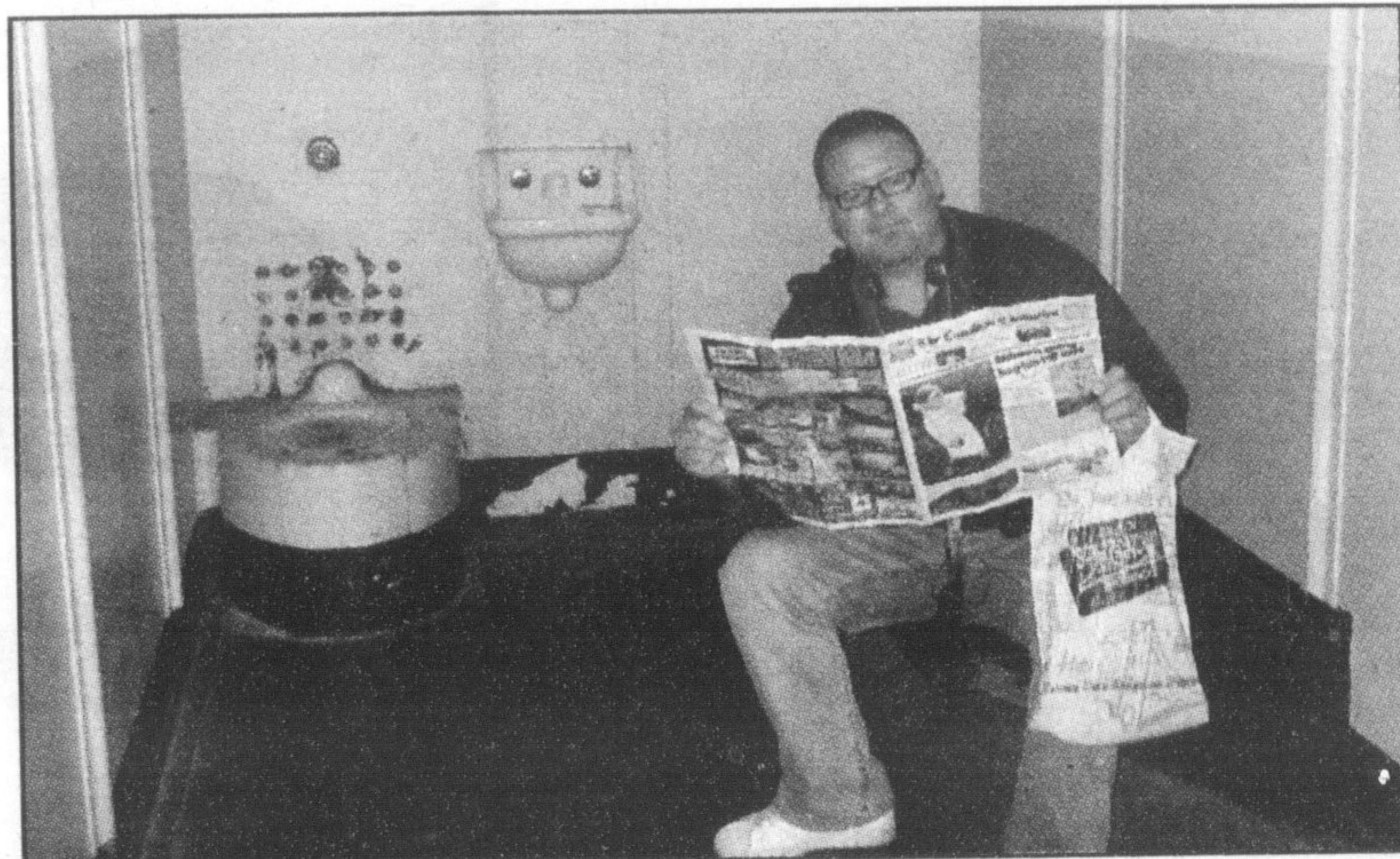
Most grocery stores make donating food items easier by offering a collection container close to the store exit.

If you've already shopped, pulling a few items of non-perishable goods from the pantry and taking them to your local fire hall, grocery store or even directly to the food bank can help ensure the economy's tightening grip on the hungry is loosened.

The food bank also accepts monetary donations, which can be converted into even more food thanks to the collective buying power created by multiple donors.

For those who struggle to keep themselves from needing a food bank's assistance, and therefore can't afford to donate money or food, the food bank would probably welcome your assistance in helping sort everything that arrives during the biggest seasonal food drives.

And, since you probably won't meet those you've helped, we thank you for giving and for making our community better for everyone.



**MAKING TRACKS:** Jeramie Iacobucci gets 'locked up' in a cell while visiting Alcatraz during his trip to San Francisco. Take your community newspaper on your next vacation and send your 'Champion Tracks' photos to [editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com). Be sure to include destination information and everyone's names.

## ReadersWrite

E-mail letters to [editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com). Letters, which may be edited, must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

### A dog-gone nice act of kindness

**DEAR EDITOR:**

On September 29, my nine-year-old son let out his Maltese dog named Cody into the backyard, like he does every day after he comes home from school.

However on this day he didn't realize that the gate was wide open because of the gusty winds. To make a long story short, we lost Cody. We spent hours driving around our Hawthorne Village neighbourhood looking for him, but to no avail.

My son, feeling so bad, cried himself to sleep. The next day we called

Oakville and District Humane Society and received the good news that it had Cody.

One of our neighbours found him and took the time and effort to actually drive him to the shelter. The only information given to us was the location where our dog was found, at Gazley Circle.

We're so thankful for what this person did, as our son is now the happiest person in the world to have his dog back.

**CLINT GUZMAN  
MILTON**

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## Editor's Desk

### Please keep a bird's eye on BV the chukar this winter

I'm fascinated by birds.

They interest me so much, driving can be a danger to myself and others when I'm distracted by a unique bird at the side of the road or flying above.

This is especially so in rural Milton around the Niagara Escarpment — a haven for a variety of birds of prey.

However, I understand that even in urban Milton these days you can find interesting birds. It seems many of you are acquainted with a bird named BV, the chukar partridge that inhabits the Vanier Drive/Bell Street area.

A resident sent in a photo of the bird she thought might be of interest and, it turned out, there were a lot of people very interest-

ed. I was thrilled with the dozens of responses I received after the *Champion* published the photo and asked readers to help identify the bird.

E-mails were still coming in Wednesday — a week after publication.

Seeing the photo in the *Champion* brought back memories for Penny Willes, the former owner of a farm in Orono, Ont., who wrote that for years she bred the game bird.

Many people provided very detailed descriptions of the origin of the chukar accompanied by photos and sources

of the information. Numerous readers gave accounts of when and where they have seen the chukar and its habits.

According to Frank Sambells, the bird "enjoys scrummaging for seeds on our lawns and at first appears quite tame. However, it clearly has its own circle of comfort — about 30 feet — which when invaded will raise its head indignantly and hurriedly scamper off down the sidewalk."

Susan Snooks spotted BV in her backyard on Sunnyvale Crescent looking

• see READERS on page A7



**Karen Micelli**