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The Champion

Wednesday edition

A Metroland Community Newspaper
serving the town of Milton

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Sunday shopping proponent wants 'all or nothing'

By MARIANNE TAKACS
Special to The Champion

The Hudson's Bay Company has joined the clamor for Sunday shopping in Halton and across Ontario. Officials of the company, which operates The Bay, Simpsons and Zellers department stores, will appear before regional council this afternoon asking Halton to pass a bylaw permitting all retailers to open Sundays for a trial period before Christmas.

In a document submitted to the region stating reasons for the application, The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) describes the provincial Retail Business Holidays Act as "a never-ending bad joke." It maintains many of the stores allowed to open now sell the same products as department stores.

HBC points out that the types of convenience and drug stores currently open Sundays have grown substantially over recent years, and attributes much of the growth to the advantage these operations gained under current Sunday shopping laws. According to HBC, the number of people working Sundays in convenience and drug stores is just as significant as the number who would work in department stores.

The department store chain is also dissatisfied with the way the current law is enforced. It maintains retailers who open illegally should be fined every time they do so, that fines should be heavier, and that the region should apply for injunctions to keep offenders from opening repeatedly. According to HBC, some major retailers who defy the law are eating into its market because of the advantage opening Sunday gives them.

When it comes to Sunday opening, the document states, "It must be all or none... If council chooses not to allow retailers to choose for themselves whether to open, then council must close down all the loopholes and require all retail businesses to be closed on Sundays."

The company would prefer to be open on Sunday, but would "not complain" if all retailers were required to close.



Photo by JON BLACKER

Santa Claus came to town Sunday and about 9,000 people came out to greet him. The annual Christmas parade had its most successful turnout in history, say organizers. Spectators enjoyed floats, bands, majorettes and clowns while the children waited in anticipation to catch a glimpse of good old St. Nick. More photos on page LS1.

Crowd of 9,000 greet old St. Nick

By KAREN SMITH

The biggest crowd ever turned out for this year's Santa Claus Parade.

Organizers estimate about 9,000 people attended the Christmas event Sunday to view the floats, bands and majorettes and, of course, wave to old St. Nick.

"It was by far the best crowd we've ever had," said Paddy Townson, chairman of the Santa Claus Parade Committee. "It was fantastic. We were really pleased."

About 81 entries participated in the parade, which started from the Milton Fair Grounds and travelled along Main Street on the brisk but sunny afternoon.

Judges chose the Ontario Agricultural Museum's float number one for expressing the parade's theme *Home for the Holidays*. The runner up was Sam Sherrat Public School. Bishop Reding Roman Catholic Secondary School won for the best non-theme float and Milton Greenhouses had the best store window display.

"I thought the calibre of floats was fantastic," commented Ms. Townson.

The Santa Claus Parade Committee needed a remaining \$6,000 to cover the costs of the \$13,000 event, and at least \$2,000 was raised through the money buckets at the parade, she added.

Other proceeds came from balloon and pennant sales, but the final dollar count will not be known for about a week.

Champion Christmas Fund sets \$18,000 goal to help needy



Inquiries have already been received from our readers, wondering when The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund will be launched. Today they have the answer.

It is the goal of the fund to provide a traditional Christmas, with all the trimmings, to the town's less fortunate.

This year the estimated need will total \$18,000. Last year Miltonians showed their generous nature by contributing that amount to the fund. Champion publisher Ian Oliver

is confident the people of Milton will respond with their usual enthusiasm to ensure the success of The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund.

All proceeds from the fund are turned over to the local Salvation Army office for distribution to the needy. The number of families requiring financial assistance this holiday season has not yet been determined by the Salvation Army however in 1988, there were 120 families on the list.

The Christmas spirit has already been embraced by several Milton residents who've vowed to be first in line to donate to The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund. In their minds, Christmas is a time for giving.

Donations will be accepted at The Champion office, 191 Main St. and can be mailed to The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund, Box 248, Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9. Tax receipts will be provided upon request for donations of more than \$500.

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