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Sales pitch looks like bill, causes complaints

By KAREN SMITH

The next time you pay bills for your business or organization, make sure you really owe the money.

Betty Zelinsky, a family services worker for the Salvation Army in Milton, almost paid \$137 for a service the organization didn't request.

Mrs. Zelinsky says a form mailed to the Salvation Army's Main Street office by a company offering its services looked so similar to an invoice she mistook it for a bill.

"It's taking unfair advantage of people," she says. "They know people are busy and don't always look things over closely."

Only one thing stopped Mrs. Zelinsky from sending the money to the company. She remembered the Salvation Army's billing for directories is handled through its Toronto office.

"Had that not been our policy, I would have written the cheque."

The form asked the Salvation Army to buy a listing in a classified directory of businesses and organizations for a fee of \$137. The directory is published by Classified Directory Publishers Inc.

Below the fee, the form reads: "This is a solicitation for the order of services and not a bill, invoice or statement of account due. You are under no obligation to make payment on account of this offer unless you accept this offer."

A spokesperson for Classified Directory Publishers Inc. said the company would only reply to questions regarding the matter through written correspondence.

Even the location of the company's office would not be disclosed over the telephone. The mailing address is a post office box number in Downsview, Ontario, and the address listed in the Metropolitan Toronto phone book is 150 Riviera Dr. in Unionville.

John Lawrence, general manager of the Milton Chamber of Commerce, says he has received many complaints about the forms.



Photos by JOHN WARREN

Let's ride, partner

Four-year-old Meghan Holtze (left) of the Sunrise Disabled Riding School rides horses as a form of therapy as well as fun. The riding school visited Old Bell Farm in Milton Saturday. Two-year-old Alex Benfield (right) isn't part of the school, but he decided to come along for the ride anyway.

Pomeroy: Dump fees must be 'responsible'

By NORMAN NELSON

Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy thinks Halton can make some money on its new landfill scheduled to open in early 1992 — but the price charged other centres for using it must be "responsible."

And he doesn't think Milton, which fought tooth and nail against being saddled with the dump and appears ready to go on a war footing over plans to put more garbage in it, should receive any additional compensation.

Halton Region has agreed to make available 250,000 tonnes of the 5 million tonne dump to the Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee (SWISC).

This umbrella group of Greater Toronto Area municipalities (Halton, Peel, Durham, York and Metro Toronto) is trying to devise an overall waste disposal strategy for its roughly 3.5 million residents.

"I'd be very surprised if (regional) council would consider compensation," he said, but added that if Milton brought forward a request, "it would be discussed."

Halton, while awaiting the opening of its landfill, currently exports all of its garbage — a large portion of which is shipped to a private landfill in St. Catharines.

"The Region of Niagara and the city of St. Catharines are the only ones who would be responsible for the cost of the landfill," he said.

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