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Community responds to plight of needy

It took more than a month to collect and five hectic days to deliver but by Christmas Eve, the Salvation Army had again done its part to make the season merry.

With the help of a supportive community, the Salvation Army served more families this year than ever before. Last week there were 170

families registered and more were expected to seek help in those last few days before Christmas, according to Betty Zelinsky, community service worker with the Salvation Army.

Those who hadn't visited the Army's toy shop or picked up food vouchers in the past two weeks were

on the list for deliveries. Floyd Coulter, who owns the flower shop Orchids 'n Lace at Milton Mall with his wife Bonnie, acted as a Santa Claus on wheels as a Salvation Army volunteer. The store's delivery van, when not filled with orders of plants and flowers for customers, carried hampers of food and gifts to needy families.

The contents of those hampers were donated by the community through various food and toy drives. What wasn't contributed could be purchased with proceeds from The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund. When the newspaper office closed Friday afternoon, the fund total stood at \$17,129.25. Champion publisher Ian Oliver, said he hoped the \$3,000 needed to reach the fund's \$20,000 goal would be collected on Monday. The fund will remain open until the goal is achieved.

Mrs. Zelinsky has seen the slow economy reflected in the large number of new clients this year. Others who had broken the cycle of social assistance have found themselves caught up in it again. A lack of low rental housing and an increase in job cuts have contributed to the number of Miltonians seeking financial help, she says.

Despite the cautious spending practices that come with economic hard times, The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund and other contributors to disadvantaged residents were successful. It appears there wasn't a tight budget on generosity.



Photo by ROB SKEOCH

Betty Zelinsky, community worker with the Salvation Army gets a hand from 10-year-old Jennifer Browning and Mark Wilson, 5, gathering donations from Robert Baldwin School last week.



Photo by ROB SKEOCH

Playing reindeer games

Dasher made an appearance in the Milton Community Nursery School at St. Paul's United Church on Friday morning. The reindeer, played by Carly Brunton was one of the characters in the school's Christmas play.

Levee celebrates the old and the new

By KEN LAMB

Special to The Champion

The recipe for Milton's New Year's Day Levee calls for equal parts of the past and future.

The event will be held Tuesday, Jan. 1 at Town Hall and the adjacent Hugh Foster Hall from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Jim Dills of the Milton Historical Society is co-ordinating the program.

"People can take part in whatever interests them on the program," Mr. Dills says. "The traditional aspect of the Levee — to give people an opportunity to chat with Mayor Gord Krantz and the councillors — is still high on the agenda."

"But the Levee is also a relaxed reminder of what has made our town what it is and the forces that will shape its future," he explained.

"A key part of the informal program will take place in the beautiful Council Chamber. Mayor Krantz and councillors will speak briefly on heritage concerns, construction projects and future challenges facing

the town. People will have the opportunity to ask questions.

"Several displays underline important chapters in Milton's story. A presentation prepared by the Town recalls restoration of Town Hall. Another tells about the current leisure centre project," Mr. Dills says.

"In Hugh Foster Hall, a photo display mounted by the Milton Historical Society highlights some of the major influences on our community

heritage. Members of our society will be on hand to speak with people who want more information.

"Tours of Town Hall are also being offered again," Mr. Dills says. "We know many people have not yet been through it."

The Milton Historical Society will serve light refreshments at Hugh Foster hall where visitors will have a chance to chat with friends and Town Council members.

Drury student's art becomes holiday greeting

For E.C. Drury High School student Lyn Philp, it's "quite an honour" to have her Christmas message reach hundreds of people.

That's exactly what happened when the Halton Board of Education chose her art work for its official Christmas card. About 2,000 were printed, and made available to principals, trustees, teachers and board staff.

"It was surprising... I didn't think it would be picked," she modestly told *The Champion*.

The board annually selects a drawing from one of its students for its Christmas card, alternating between different grades and different areas of Halton.

It's been so well received, said communications project co-ordinator Helene Clark, that a general note paper series is now available with the second series unveiled just last month.

The achievement doesn't have the Grade 13 student dreaming of sugar plums and high paying

positions with Hallmark Cards.

"I think it (painting) is going to be more of a hobby," she chuckled, adding she's concentrating now on her "sciences in order to go on to University."

Her favourite medium is water colours because the colours "blend so easily." She enjoys painting because "it's relaxing."

Her painting — a window with snow covered

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