

Area youths give up food to feed world's hungry

7—The Canadian Champion, Friday, March 13, 1992



Milton District High School students went without food for 30 hours to fight hunger last weekend. Their efforts raised \$500 for World Vision Canada.

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

About 20 Milton District High School students discovered how it feels to go hungry last weekend.

The teens took part in a 30-hour fast — being permitted to consume only fluids — to help raise money for the world's starving.

Participants passed the hours in the high school gymnasium, supervised by Susan Conway, a volunteer with World Vision Canada, who organized the fundraiser.

The students spent last Friday and Saturday's hunger strike engaging in recreational activities. The bunch was well behaved, according to Mrs. Conway who already has plans for next year's event.

"I didn't have to go running all over the school looking for them," she said with relief. "I didn't have any troublemakers on my hands."

By about 2:30 Saturday morning, most participants said goodnight and were drifting off in their sleeping bags on the gym floor. But many were awakened to the school bell which went off at 8 a.m.

Nineteen teens stuck it out in the school gym, while others participated in their homes. Those who worked returned to the school after their shifts, Mrs. Conway recalled. A well-deserved pizza party followed

the 30 hours.

Overall, through sponsorship, the students raised \$500. The money will fund immediate food aid and long-term community development work in several countries including Thailand, Brazil, Ethiopia, and Mozambique.

Meanwhile, a handful of Grade 7 and 8 students in the Milton Alliance Church youth group formed their own World Vision Canada fundraiser. Their fast began Friday at noon. At press time, the organizer of the event couldn't be reached for comment.

"We are grateful to all the people who took part or sponsored participants," said Don Scott, president of World Vision Canada. "They have shown Canadians care enough to make a difference in the lives of hungry people around the world."

All in all, 125,000 Canadians — students, church congregations, and members of community organizations — worked together this month to raise money to fight hunger.

In 1991, 87,000 people fasted and raised \$1.8 million, and this year's fundraising forecast almost doubles that number.

"Based on last year's success and the number of people who registered to participate this year," Mr. Scott added, "we expect to raise \$2.4 million from the event."

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Schools recycle eyeglasses

Halton's public and Catholic school boards are joining forces to give the gift of sight to needy children in the Third World.

The region's schools are collecting used and unwanted eyeglasses which will be refurbished and sent to help some of the one-in-three people in the world who need them.

Last year, the Give the Gift of Sight Program provided free eye care to 8,700 people in Costa Rica. This year, the people of Panama will benefit from the program.

Parents as well as students are being encouraged to bring unwanted eyeglasses to Halton schools. Members of the public, also, can drop off their old glasses at either of the Board offices, or a nearby school.

"Our Board is pleased to work with the Halton Board (of Education) on such a worthwhile project," said Halton Roman Catholic School Board director Cliff Byrnes.

"It's interesting to think that our old, discarded glasses will make a major difference in the lives of Third World children and adults.

The Halton Board of Education is located at 2050 Guelph Line in Burlington and the Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board is situated at 830 Drury Lane in Burlington.

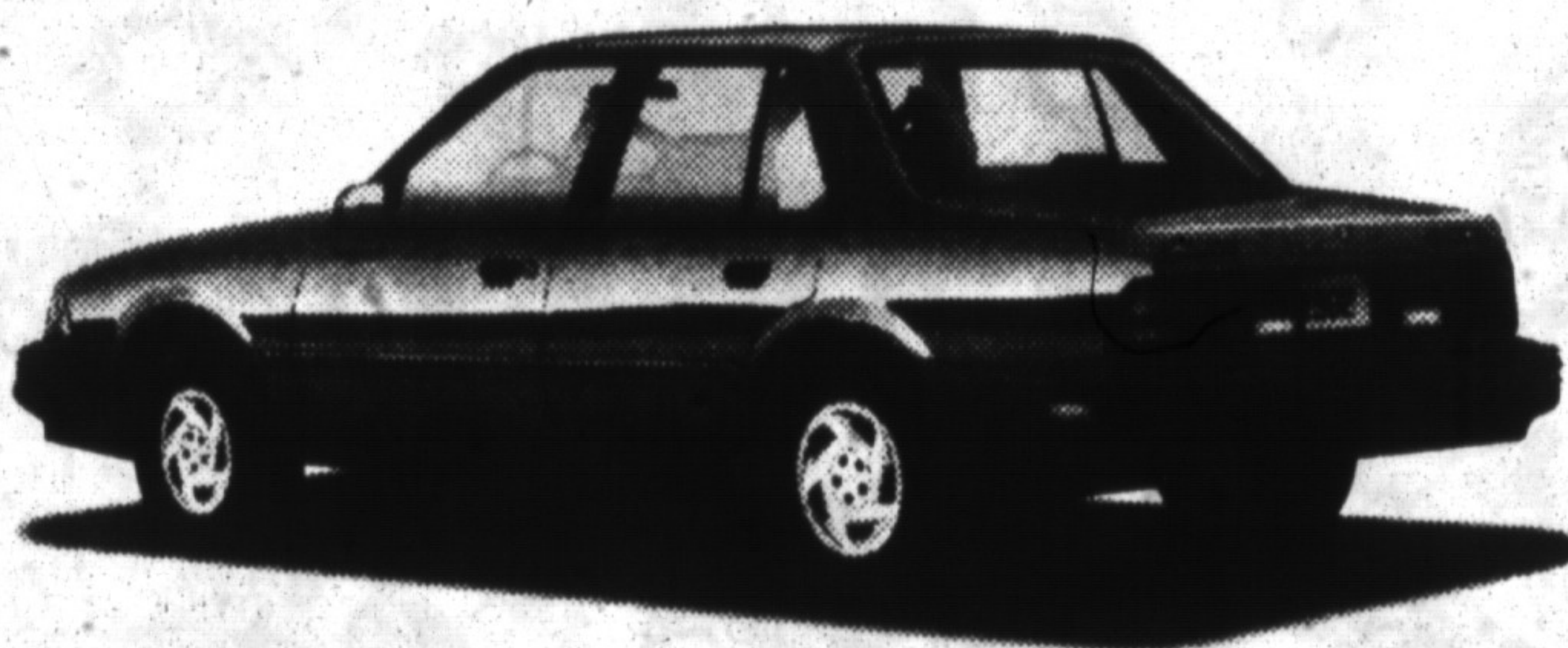
"This is just one of the many examples of how Halton schools continually reach out to serve the community, locally and globally," added Bob Williams, public school board director.

The Burlington Central Lions Club is helping with the project, and LensCrafters has committed itself to repairing the eyeglasses at no charge.

"This is a project in which everybody wins," said Ron Bell, a member of the Burlington Central Lions Club and chairman of the Give the Gift of Sight Program.

"Kids get to learn how they can help others, while people, thousands of miles away in Panama, get the precious gift of sight."

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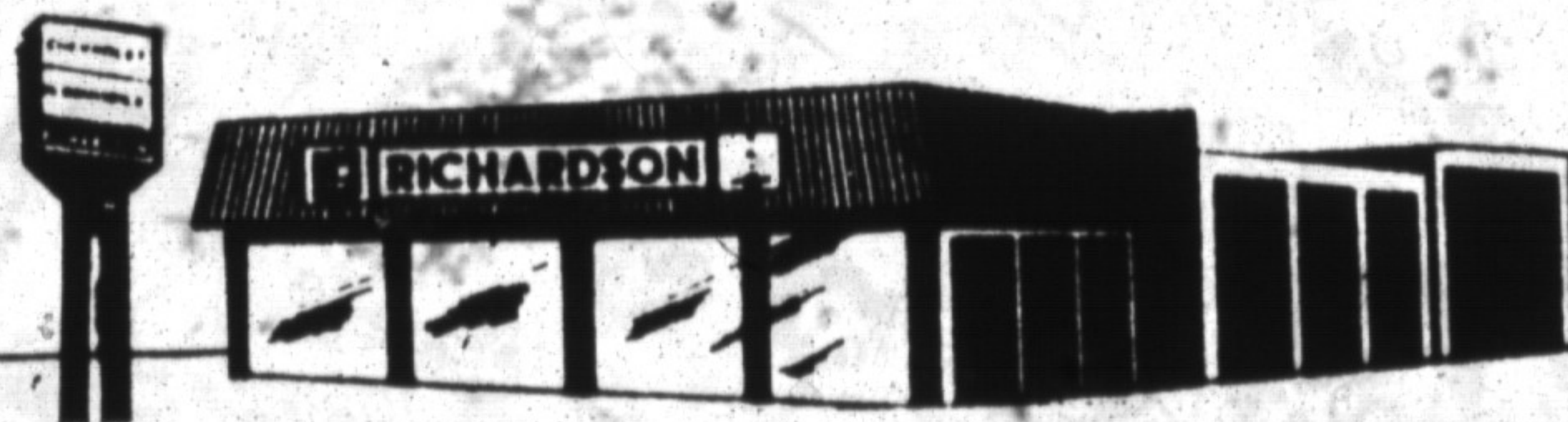
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