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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Kim Thomas and her daughter Jenny, 4, stop to smell these 'flowers of hope'. The daffodils are the symbol of the Canadian Cancer Society campaign which runs in April. Jenny, who is on the road to recovery, was stricken with leukemia at age 2. She and her family can relate to the hope the spring blooms represent.

'Tough' 4-year-old fights cancer

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

Without friends, family, and the Canadian Cancer Society, Kim and Craig Thomas don't know how they would be coping with their daughter Jenny's leukemia.

Thanks to medical research, the four-year-old girl is making a full recovery from the cancer a Milton doctor diagnosed her with having after only a 30-second examination.

Twenty-five years ago, children with leukemia had little chance of survival. Now, 90 per cent make complete recoveries.

The Oriole Court couple is not only grateful for cancer research — much of it made possible by the

Canadian Cancer Society — but also for the backing they have received from relatives, neighbours, and their church.

"Without the support we have gotten, it would be a very different situation," says Mrs. Thomas.

At the age of 2, Jenny was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia — the most common type of leukemia in children.

The news "hit like a ton of bricks" in December, 1990, says Mr. Thomas. "It changes your whole life."

The worst part, he recalls was "fear of the unknown." He admits at first he thought leukemia, known as cancer of blood, would mean death for his daughter.

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Local tax up by 2.5%

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

Municipal property taxes in Milton will go up by less than the price of a large pizza for 1992. The average homeowner in urban Milton will pay \$11.18 more than in 1991, slightly less than a 2.5 per cent increase.

Monday night municipal council approved an operating budget involving \$8,506,823 in property taxes. A combination of new available tax dollars from economic growth (\$210,000) and a \$319,000 cost-cutting program made for the 2.5 per cent increase.

Milton's actual operating budget for 1992 is roughly \$15.3 million. The other \$6.8 million comes from revenue generated by the Town, through such things as fees for various municipal services.

Local levies are far from the lion's share of the average homeowner's property taxes. While Milton's per capita homeowner tax load hovers close to \$500 a year, school board levies run to approximately \$1,200 annually in Halton, while regional taxes and utility charges are almost \$750 on a home assessed at \$6,500 for 1992.

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Man killed by CP train

A Milton man was stuck and killed by a CP Rail train at Court Street North Monday night.

Kirk Wiens, 19, of Randall Crescent was hit by a westbound train on the north track. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mr. Wiens and a friend were crossing the tracks at about 9:45 p.m. when the incident occurred. His friend made it to the other side of the tracks before the train crossed the path. After the train had passed he discovered Mr. Wiens had been hit by the train and thrown onto the south track. He then ran to a neighbouring home to call for help.

It has not been determined if an inquest will be held.

NEWSLINES

Fire report

Monday town councillor Colin Best called for a report on whether Milton should beef up its fire regulations in the wake of a recent spate of blazes.

There have been three significant fires in Milton over the past two weeks and one that could have been a lot worse but for "God and luck," according to fire chief Richard Playfair — it involved a flaming roof on a downtown Main Street building.

Other recent fires include the devastating one at Mohawk Raceway's backstretch, a house fire on Sixth Line north of 25 Sideroad and a blaze at a rural chicken farm.

"We are very good at putting out fires," Mr. Best said. But, he added, "I'd like to see what we can do" to better prevent them.

INSIDE



Local heroes

The actions of two local heroes have not gone unnoticed. Christina Winterburn and Charlie Speck were honoured at a Halton Region Safety Council banquet recently for their life-saving acts.

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Cause of Mohawk Raceway fire still in question

Fund established to aid horsemen affected by tragic blaze

The cause of Thursday's tragic barn fire which killed 69 horses at Mohawk Raceway is expected to be released by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office tomorrow.

Earlier speculation that an oil furnace in the east end of the building at the backstretch was responsible for the blaze has been ruled out.

"It was definitely not the furnace," said Kathy Wade-Vlaar, spokesperson for the Ontario Jockey Club (OJC) which owns the Campbellville track.

The devastating fire is being called the worst tragedy in the history of horse racing in North

America. The blaze wiped out nine trainers' stables. Damages and losses are estimated to be in the millions of dollars.

To assist horsemen financially affected by the fire, the OJC and Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA) have established the Mohawk Barn 3 Fund.

The fund will help horsemen replace lost equipment and supplies, and provide food and accommodation to track employees who lost their jobs.

"People from the horse racing community as

well as patrons are encouraged to contribute to this worthwhile cause," said Ms Wade Vlaar.

The OJC and OHHA have kicked off the fund by making a \$10,000 donation. A committee of OJC officials and horsemen will be responsible for allocating and dispersing the money.

The committee is also planning to hold a special charity race night from which the OJC and horsemen will donate a portion of their revenues.

Contributions to the fund should be directed to Mohawk Barn 3 Fund, c/o Mohawk Raceway, Campbellville, LOP 1B0.

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