

NEWSLINES

Top citizens sought

January 15 has been set as the deadline for nominations for the Milton Chamber of Commerce's 1992 civic awards.

The Chamber is seeking nominations for Citizen of the Year, Civic Organization of the Year, and Civic Improvement of the Year.

All Milton citizens and businesses are encouraged to participate in the process of recommending worthy candidates.

Drop off nominations in writing to the Milton Chamber of Commerce office at Unity Park on the corner of Martin Street and Steeles Avenue, or mail to P.O. Box 52, Milton, Ont., L9T 2Y3.

Nominations, which should include a brief outline explaining why the candidate deserves the award, can also be sent by fax to 878-4972.

INSIDE



Christmas Greetings

The children of several Milton schools have written down many of their thoughts of Christmas and we've put them into our annual Christmas Greetings issue, inserted inside this newspaper. It's their way (and ours) of wishing all residents of Milton a Merry Christmas.

See Inside

Features

- Police 4
- Pud 6
- Our Readers Write .. 9
- Dateline 13
- Sports 14-16
- Classified 18-19
- Real Estate . RE1-RE8

Hundreds surrender their weapons in amnesty

More than 800 handguns and rifles, and 20,000 rounds of ammunition were among the firearms collected by Halton police in its amnesty program.

Knives, bayonets, machetes and hand grenades were also surrendered at police headquarters in the program which allowed citizens to dispose of their illegal weapons without fear of being charged.

"Overall, we feel it has been a very effective

campaign," said regional police spokesman Sgt. Joe Martin.

"If one life has been saved or one accident prevented by the campaign, then it has been a very worthwhile exercise for the entire community."

Halton police destroyed the majority of the weapons, while hand grenades and other military ordnance were forwarded to the Department of National Defence for disposal.

Sgt. Martin said the Halton Regional Police Service is "pleased" with the results of the program. "It is quite comforting for residents to have the opportunity to have unwanted firearms destroyed with no fear of reprisal."

Citizens were permitted to drop off their weapons without being charged, except where firearms were suspected of being used in a crime.

The program ended December 15.

Wreaths stolen from cemetery

Several wreaths have been stolen from grave sites at Evergreen Cemetery over the past two weeks, leaving family members who laid the floral decorations in disgust.

At least 18 wreaths have been reported missing from the non-profit cemetery on Ontario Street, said Roy Downs, secretary-treasurer of the board of directors which operates the site.

The winter wreaths, used by loved ones to decorate the grave sites, started disappearing at the beginning of December, he said.

The cemetery board has received several phone calls from distraught family members wondering what has happened to their wreaths, which are usually placed on stands by the head stones.

The 16-acre property has no other security than a superintendent who works during the day, said Mr. Downs.

He is urging the thieves to return the wreaths. Mr. Downs speculated whoever stole the plastic floral monuments may be trying to resell them. They range in price from \$30 to \$60.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

A Christmas carol

Four-year-old Nicole Thissen with mom Linda, continue the age old holiday tradition of carolling. Joining them was Nicole's older sister Katelynn. Happy holidays to all of our readers.

Purse snatch suspect found guilty by judge

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

A 25-year-old Miles Street man has been found guilty of stealing a purse from an elderly woman behind a downtown plaza in September.

Mark Hostrawser was convicted of theft in Milton provincial division court Monday.

Judge John Robinson ruled he had "no doubt" Mr. Hostrawser admitted to stealing the purse as told to the court by 21-year-old witness Shayne Woodhouse earlier this month.

Mr. Woodhouse, who read about the purse-snatching in a newspaper, testified December 7 he heard Mr. Hostrawser tell his girlfriend he committed the crime.

In the defence's submission to

the court Monday, Mr. Hostrawser's lawyer, Leonard Walker, argued the evidence was hearsay and said the witness lacked credibility.

He said Mr. Woodhouse has a criminal record and, because he violated probation in the past, had a history of lying in court.

But Judge Robinson said he was "satisfied" with the evidence provided by Mr. Woodhouse.

Crown Attorney Laurie Jago said newspaper articles on the crime described a 15-year-old boy as a possible suspect in the case — a speculation police later ruled out.

The 91-year-old victim, who has a heart condition and bad eyesight, was walking behind Carriage Square toward Martin Street when Mr. Hostrawser rode up from be-

• see MAN on page 3

Two days and \$4,000 left to go

There are two days before Christmas and that's enough time to top up the Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund. As of noon Tuesday the total was close to \$14,000, leaving just \$4,000 to be collected by Christmas Eve to achieve the fund goal of \$18,000.

Salvation Army uses proceeds from the Christmas Bureau Fund to ensure every Miltonian has a traditional holiday celebration complete with a special meal and a gift for each child.

Drop off donations at The Champion office, 191 Main Street or mail cheques to the Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund, c/o The Champion, Box 248, Milton, L9T 4N9.