

# New company reconditions used medical equipment

By **KAREN SMITH**  
The Champion

A new Halton company is in the business of recycling, but it has nothing to do with newspaper or glass bottles.

This company gives the disabled a break from the high cost of home health care aids by repairing used equipment and selling it at affordable prices.

The unique idea is the brainstorm of Jim McKellar, a Halton Hills businessman, who previously worked for several years in the medical field.

The former paramedic, who opened the Georgetown-based Re-Med Foundation in February, makes old wheelchairs, walkers and other equipment work like new.

The company acquires health care aids — from lifts and beds to wash-room equipment and scooters — through donations by people who are no longer using them.

"We recondition this equipment and offer it to people who are in need for a modest sum, enough to cover our expenses." Costs to his clients end up about 75 per cent less than the original retail value, according to Mr. McKellar.

He says his years in the medical profession — as an ambulance attendant in the Metro Toronto Ambulance Service and later in home health care equipment sales — opened his eyes to the financial demands involved in purchasing such aids.

"I realized there was a void where government funding stopped. Patients not qualifying or in need of extra equipment often found costs prohibitive."

An electric wheelchair can cost as much as \$16,000, but the maximum government grant doesn't come close to that number, he said.

Doing most of the work himself, he has so far refurbished and sold

about 75 pieces of equipment to clients.

The company has received praise from the Ontario March of Dimes, which assists disabled adults.

"It's an idea whose time has come," comments Ann Buckle, an independent living co-ordinator with the organization.

More than 30 health care agencies as well as hospitals, rehabilitation centres and service groups from across the province are assisting Re-

Med as well as their clients through referrals and donations.

"Everybody wins here. I love doing this," adds Mr. McKellar, who is responsible for designing and

manufacturing the first known Am- balance Disaster Bus in North

America. People interested in obtaining equipment or making donations, can

contact the Re-Med Foundation at (416) 631-4974.

The company will make a donation to any equipment donor's favourite charity.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

The disabled can purchase home health care aids at affordable prices through a unique Halton company called Re-Med. The company specializes in refurbishing old equipment and making it like new. Here, company president Jim McKellar presents a certificate of appreciation to Ann Buckle of the local Ontario March of Dimes.

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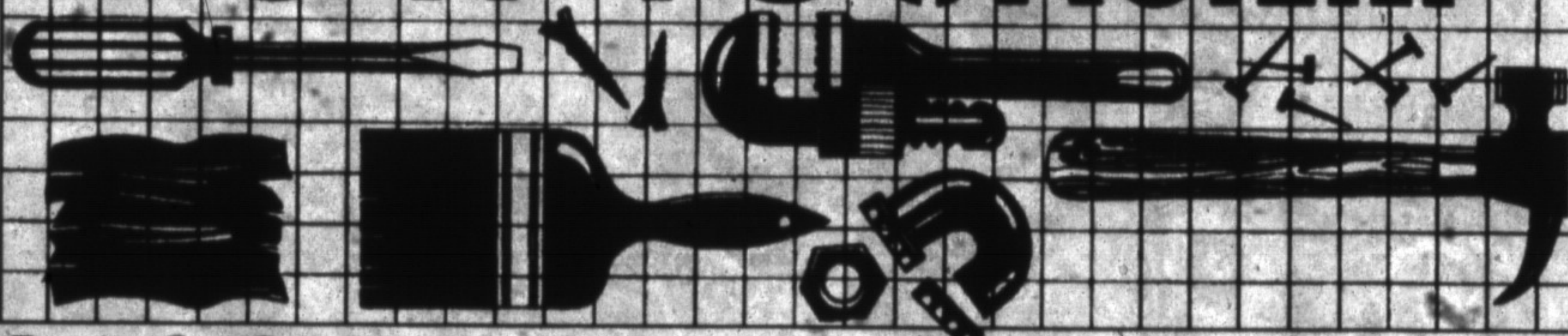
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