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NEWSLINES

Bank workers come through for needy

Milton District Hospital is a beneficiary of fundraising efforts by Bank of Montreal staff.

The Our People Fund, a Bank of Montreal employee charity, recently presented a \$13,500 cheque to the Derry Road hospital.

The money, part of a larger campaign, was collected from Bank of Montreal employees through direct donations, payroll deductions and fundraising events.

"Today's economic circumstances and social cutbacks have put a lot of pressure on social agencies that rely on donations," said Frank Houlihan, community banking manager for the Milton Mall branch.

"Every little bit helps and I'm proud to have presented this cheque to Milton District Hospital on behalf of the Our People Fund."

The charitable group collected more than \$1.3 million in its 1993 campaign. The money was distributed to more than 800 non-profit organizations across Ontario.

The presentation was made at the hospital to Bert Stewart, president of the Milton District Hospital Foundation, by Claudette Tellier, Shelly Hunter and Mr. Houlihan, who represented the bank employees.

Since its inception in 1975, the Our People Fund has donated more than \$7.5 million to local charities. The average pledge has increased by more than 5 per cent annually.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Big wheel

Glen Norcliffe adjusts his 1886 Victor 56-inch High Wheeler prior to taking it for a spin around the Ontario Agricultural Museum Sunday afternoon. His bike was part of the Great Canadian Tractor Days exhibition at the museum. In May Glen and a friend rode their bikes across thousands of kilometres of Irish, Scottish and English countryside.

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Hospital to test former patients for AIDS

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

Milton District Hospital is attempting to contact more than 700 former patients to warn them that they may have been exposed to HIV.

The 727 people who received blood transfusions at the hospital between 1978 and 1985 are at risk and should be tested, said a press release issued by hospital administrator Brian Brady.

He said the hospital is joining the Ontario Hospital Association and several other health care agencies in a notification program for patients who were given blood untested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The late 1970s is thought to be the earliest that HIV surfaced, and the Canadian Red Cross Society didn't start screening donated blood for the killer

virus until the mid-1980s.

"We will attempt to contact these patients by registered mail, however, there will be some whose addresses have changed," said Mr. Brady.

"Hopefully, they will be alerted by the media blitz and proceed to have a HIV test. It is also possible that many former patients who received blood at Milton District Hospital have already been tested for HIV."

Mr. Brady said the hospital will send letters to the 727 former patients within the next two weeks.

Anyone wishing to determine if they received a blood transfusion at the hospital between 1978 and 1985 can do so by contacting the health records department. A signed authorization with identification will be required.

Former patients may wish to discuss the matter with their family physician and are encouraged to

do so, Mr. Brady said.

He said counselling is also available through the office of the infection control officer, Sandra Callery, who has considerable experience in counselling AIDS patients and their families.

Town gets cash for composting

The Town of Milton has received a \$18,500 grant from the provincial government for its home composting program.

The funding was handed over under the Municipal Reduction/Reuse Program, which assists municipalities in the development and management of waste materials as a useful resource that would otherwise be directed to landfills.

Suzy Shier & Cotton Ginny

Coming to Milton Mall
Watch for Opening

Sand Sculpture

Come to see artist Paul Dawkins sculpt
a life-size setting in Zellers Court
August 3-6

MILTON MALL

FREE GIFTS

Pick up details from
participating stores

Expires Sept. 6, 1994

55 ONTARIO ST. (905) 878-3900

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:30-9:00, Sat. 9:30-6:00, Sun. 12:00-5:00