

He hopes to help friend's child in marrow search

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

"My name is Amanda. I'm 7 years old. I'm dying of cancer. Please help me."

Milton's Consumers Glass employee Jim Creechan hopes the poster will pull his fellow employees' heart-strings.

The young girl pictured (pre and post chemotherapy) is the daughter

of a family friend of Mr. Creechan's. All are Cambridge residents.

An electrical maintenance employee for seven years with Consumers Glass, Mr. Creechan has taken it upon himself to assist in their search for a suitable bone marrow donor for Amanda by bringing it to his job in Milton.

"She's just a very beautiful little friend," said Mr. Creechan.

The Canadian Red Cross Society

will hold two information sessions on bone marrow donor testing and transplants for Consumers Glass' 120 employees July 25.

Mr. Creechan challenges the general public to help too.

His goal is to boost the 72,000 names now on the Canadian potential bone marrow donor register. Mr. Creechan explained Amanda's chances of finding a suitable donor are one in 750,000 and that she

should locate a donor by fall or her cancer will likely be fatal.

Consumers Glass occupational health nurse Carol Massey said siblings are the best bet for a donor match. Amanda has none and her parents aren't matches.

Donor matches among siblings average one in four, but once outside the family the odds balloon to one in 750,000.

Ms Massey said statistics show that

of 845 Canadian children diagnosed with cancer annually, about 215 die.

The Red Cross holds information sessions about bone marrow donors and transplants but won't do so publicly unless it receives numerous requests. Ms Massey said the donor process begins with a blood test and consent form. Blood test results go on the registry and should a match be made, marrow is extracted, with a syringe, from a donor's hip.

"It might be a little sore but it isn't a big thing," said Ms Massey, saying she doesn't believe it's reportedly painful procedures but rather apathy that results in low donor registry numbers.

More information can be obtained from the Canadian Red Cross Society's district bone marrow transplant coordinator, Mazeli Seferian, in Hamilton at (905) 522-6885.

Town taking closer look at intersection

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The town acknowledges a problem at the Coxe Boulevard and Childs Drive intersection and has sanctioned minor improvements while speeding and pedestrian studies will be done next fall.

"It's something that's going to take a major accident before somebody does something," said Coxe Avenue resident Adrian Kejt at town council last week.

Town staff said traffic and pedestrian studies of the problem intersection will commence in the fall when schools are operating and traffic patterns return to normal after summer holidays.

In the meantime however, upgrades were sanctioned along with the 1994 sidewalk contract.

Last April, the town received a petition from the police-citizen Community Consultation Committee, headed by Ward 2 Councillor Colin Best.

In a report last week, public works director John Matthews noted several areas required study, including speeding and the suggestion of an all-way stop sign.

"The matter of repositioning the pedestrian ramps and northbound stop to improve (visibility) and increase (stopping) ... is reasonable and warranted," said Mr. Matthew's report.

The "T" intersection has a stop at Coxe Blvd. while Childs Drive vehicles have the right-of-way. Site inspections showed most vehicles stop beyond the Coxe Blvd. stop line because of impeded visibility.

The town will relocate both the stop block and crosswalks three metres north of existing locations on Coxe Blvd. at cost of \$1,800.

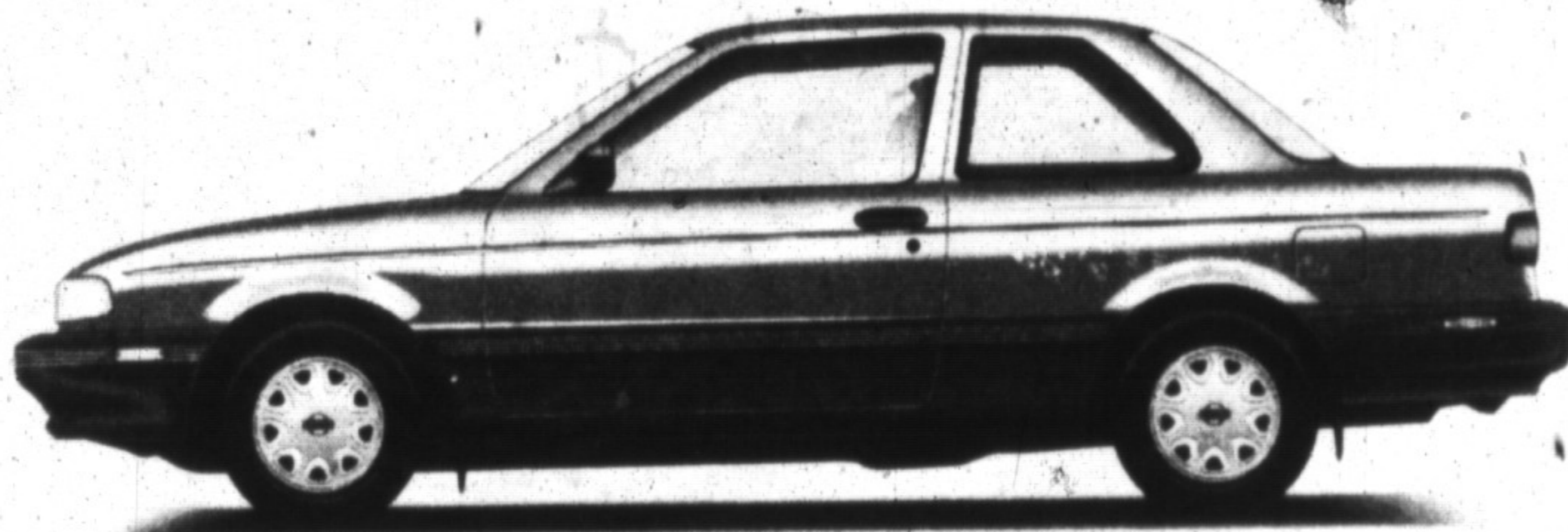
Mr. Keith said numerous accidents have occurred at the location and cited the high volume of pedestrian traffic involving children enroute to Bishop Reding Secondary School, Memorial Arena, the Leisure Centre and sports fields.

"With the amount of traffic at this location, hazards involved with left turns, and traffic travelling in the 60 km to 80 km range, the residents fear a child will be hit crossing the road," said Mr. Best in a letter to council. He also asked for a review of the location of a bus stop on the south side of Childs Drive near Coxe Blvd.

Halton Police were said to endorse the merits of a three-way stop. Mayor Gord Krantz said the problem is one of "enforcement of speeding."

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