

# The Canadian Champion

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## NEWSLINES

### Man dies in Maplehurst

Halton Regional Police are investigating the sudden death of a Maplehurst Correctional Centre inmate Wednesday night.

Aloysius Roberts, 49, of Oakville died at Milton District Hospital shortly after he arrived. He became ill while in custody at the Highway 25 jail and was transported to hospital for treatment, police said.

Police arrested the man Tuesday night as a result of a domestic investigation. He was held in custody for a bail hearing at Ontario Court in Milton Wednesday. After being denied bail, he was taken to Maplehurst, but soon became sick.

An autopsy was conducted, but the cause of death had not been determined at press time yesterday. However, police said they believe the death was related to an existing medical condition.

Police are still waiting for the results of a toxicology report to determine if any drugs or alcohol were present in the body.

### Red Cross wants board members

The Milton branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society is looking for community minded people to join its board.

Branch manager Susan Lynch says the board works on the principle of sharing the work equitably, so as not to overload individual members. For more information, call 875-1459.

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### BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP



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## VON offers dignity, security to stricken

By KAREN SMITH  
*The Champion*

**A** ILL MILTON WOMAN IS HAPPY to be able to enjoy the comforts of her own home. "If it wasn't for the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) I would have to go to a hospital," said the woman, who asked not to be named. Even though she's very sick, the 63-year-old is able to stay at home with the help of VON nurses who visit her at least once a week.

Hundreds of Halton's ill can recover in the comfort of their own dwelling and, in some cases, live their last days at home thanks to the organization.

"They're more caring than any of the nurses in a hospital," the woman says, noting that individualized support the VON provides.

The VON, which has provided services in Halton since 1930, will be honoured this week (Jan. 22-29) across the province.

Locally, approximately 100 nurses as well as contract workers make about 11,500 visits to Halton patients per year, said Linda Wilson, VON nurse manager.

The nurses care for patients from newborn babies to the elderly with "every disease under the sun," she says.

"Without them, they (patients) would have to be hospitalized or learn to cope with their diseases without professional support from nurses."

Many terminally ill patients who want to be at home when they pass away are allowed that freedom because of VON care, Ms Wilson adds.

The unidentified Milton woman, who was referred to the VON by a physician, is in the organization's Visiting Nurses Program, one of the five services it offers.

Fran Pearce, a registered nurse, is one of the woman's caregivers, and visits once or twice a week depending on the need.

The woman's many health problems, including kidney failure and diabetes, and the operations that have resulted from her illness, mean she has required steady care.

Currently the patient is blind, but hopes to regain her sight, and can't walk following surgery on her foot. She is also receiving dialysis treatment.

Besides providing care and checking on the woman's progress, Ms Pearce has taught the patient's husband — her primary caregiver — how to perform tasks such as changing a dressing.

VON nurses have also been known to "pick up on things that were not right," Ms Pearce says, preventing serious complications later.

"Many patients probably wouldn't be here if we hadn't been involved in their care," she says.

The VON will also arrange for Private Home Health Services, where nurses can be hired privately for care required beyond what is offered in the OHIP-covered

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

People like Fran Pearce, a registered nurse with the Halton branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), are being honoured this week. It's VON Week across the province.

### Town wants help in creating carnival fun

Milton individuals, community groups and businesses are being sought to help get the 1996 Winter Carnival off the ground. The Feb. 3 carnival, which traditionally features a broomball tournament, children's games, skating and a dance, needs sponsors and volunteers.



"It just takes everybody to give a little for it to go off," said Darlene Wasilkowsky, who has been hired by the town to run the event.

Community groups and businesses are being sought to sponsor activities.

Ms Wasilkowsky said she also needs people to dress up as clowns, solicit sponsors and help out on carnival day. The event at Milton Memorial Arena will start at noon with children's activities and ice skating.

Throughout the afternoon entertainment arranged to date will include a magic show, puppet show, a visit from Barney, Jimbo's Fantastic Magic and Clowns, a bubble factory, ice sculpturing, pony rides and an ice show. A broomball tournament late in the day will be followed by a dance and fireworks.

To get involved, contact Ms Wasilkowsky at 876-4212.

### Solid United Way effort just short of funding goal

By KAREN SMITH  
*The Champion*

United Way of Milton officials are keeping their heads high despite a \$13,000 shortfall in the 1995 fundraising campaign.

Officials had hoped to raise \$235,000 in the campaign, but it's estimated the final tally will hover around \$222,000.

However, the United Way isn't disappointed, according to public relations chair Hal Watson, because the 1995 count is relatively close to 1994's \$230,000 tally.

"They're equivalent types of years," said Mr. Watson. "The dollars that were there last year are there this year."

The lagging 1995 sum is a sign of uncertain economic times, said United Way campaign chair Brad Clements.

While corporate donations and door-to-door offerings rose in the campaign, contributions

• see UNITED WAY on page 4



Brad Clements



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