



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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It meant a lot

Even when times are not as good as they have been or could be, the heartwarming generosity of so many Milton people can be more than touching, it can be deeply meaningful and moving.

That was the case in the run-up to Christmas, as people rallied around this newspaper's Christmas Bureau-Fund to help those in need.

In all more than \$21,000 was raised, far surpassing the goal of collecting \$16,000 to be used for Christmas assistance by the paper's partner in the drive, the Salvation Army.

Christmas is such a fragile time for so many — those with little hope, scant resources, few friends. This community reached out to them in that sharply ironic season of mass celebration counterpointed by pockets of shame and suffering.

This town made things a little easier, a little warmer, for those who were doing without, and who couldn't explain to their children why that was so.

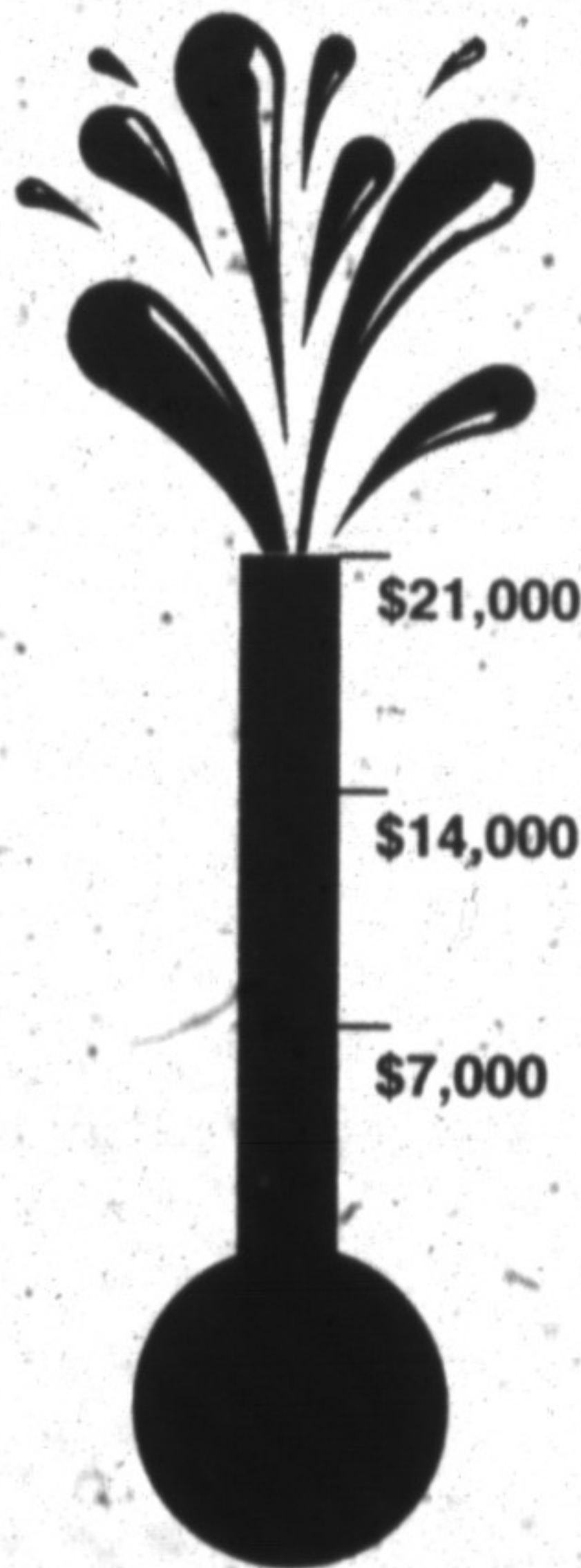
All the better that so many participated, that the donations came both in large chunks from the affluent and smaller ones from the countless others who gave what they could, who organized collections at Christmas parties, who did whatever it took to help.

In the end, beyond the spirit of selfless kindness, this was a gift of hope.

Hope rekindled that the world is not such a bad place, perhaps, because there are after all, those who will help the less fortunate unconditionally at a time when everyone should be able to rejoice. It is a gift shared by both giver and recipient. And perhaps that is in keeping with the true spirit of Christmas.

Thank you all so much.

— Rob Kelly



Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the January 17, 1996 issue

- In the new world of Greater Toronto Area (GTA) reform, Milton appeared to be in limbo. Proposals had Milton being released from the bonds of Halton Region, but not a full partner in the proposed Greater-Toronto Council. Mayor Gord Krantz compared the new proposal with regional government implementation in 1973. "Did we get better government?" asked the mayor. "No way."
- The province took steps toward wiping out measles when it announced that Ontario's elementary school students were to receive a measles vaccination before June. Most children received a measles shot after their first birthday. While the first shot was said to be effective for about 95 per cent of children, a second dose apparently protected almost 100 per cent of children.
- A Milton Merchant hockey player faced criminal charges following an incident during the warm-up in a game against the Bramalea Blues. Milton's Dave Aussem allegedly rendered Blues' forward Chris Heron unconscious with a crosscheck during a melee between the two teams.

20 Years Ago

From the January 19, 1977 issue

- Reverend Rod Lewis was chosen as Milton's Citizen of

the Year for 1976. After only six years in the community, Rev. Lewis was recognized for "giving his time willingly and unselfishly for the betterment of the community." Among a long list of accomplishments, Rev. Lewis served at Boston and Omagh Presbyterian churches, was involved with Alcoholics Anonymous, was advisor to the Milton Youth Council and worked extensively with the local jail. A banquet was to be held by the Milton Chamber of Commerce to honour him.

• Richmond School, the last one-room schoolhouse to be closed in Halton, was a topic of debate. Milton council hoped to preserve the vacant schoolhouse and transform it into a learning resource centre for outdoor education. But concerns arose about who would be responsible for preserving and operating it. Nassagaweya council had turned it over to the Halton County Museum Association for preservation, but the association had become inactive, leaving the schoolhouse to fall into decay.

50 Years Ago

From the January 16, 1947 issue

• Tragedy struck Moffat when the roof of a farmer's barn collapsed, killing a nine-year-old boy. Billy Laing died almost instantly when he was pinned under tons of ice, snow and timber. The tragedy was compounded later that day when the boy's mother fainted from the exhaustion of the ordeal. She too passed away, having never recovered from her spell.

Pud

by Steve Nease

