

# More government support needed to curb poverty, says Milton mother



Anne Smith hopes that sharing her story will help people empathize with those living in poverty. *Graham Paine / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton\_photog)*

city for her. With three children and several doctors' appointments each month across the GTA, she said it would be next to impossible to get around otherwise.

Smith said she knows she's not the only one facing hard times, which makes her wonder why federal, provincial and municipal governments aren't doing more to help those struggling to make ends meet.

She said she has recognized her children's friend's families at the food bank — people she thought were doing all right for themselves.

"It's heartbreaking to know there's so many people that are struggling," she said, adding there's a sense of shame when you find yourself needing help to take care of your family.

She said she knows she shouldn't feel embarrassed, but sometimes she can't help it.

Smith hopes that by sharing her personal story, residents within the community will be more empathetic to those living in poverty.

She said there's a perception that people living on government assistance

are lazy, but she wants people to realize there are people who genuinely need the help.

"Although we have gotten help from resources, we have also given back to them when we could," she said. "That is how this world should work when stronger people can help people that aren't so strong."

Smith continued that the more residents open their eyes to the situation, the more work can be done to tackle poverty.

"You can have money one day and (it's) gone the next," she said.

Her priority now is to make sure her children have what they need to grow up healthy and happy.

She said they, along with friends, family and support groups, give her the courage and strength she needs to get through this tough period in her life.

See Part Three next Thursday. It will discuss the obstacles those living in poverty face.

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21st Annual

MILTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Community Day

Town of Milton Community Fund



Let your Neighbours Help!! If you are a senior unable to complete some of your Spring clean-up jobs give us a call or sign up at any of the listings below.

### EARTH DAY - CARING ABOUT AND FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Teams of volunteers go out into the community and spend the morning cleaning up our Creeks and Streams and other waterways, our Parks, our Roadways and any where else garbage has accumulated over the winter.

*Bring your re-usable water bottle - we will fill it up for you!*

If you would like to help... enrollment forms are available at:

Milton Seniors' Activity Center, Milton Town Hall, Milton Public Library, Milton Chamber of Commerce, The Canadian Champion.

Call (905) 878-4085 for information • [www.miltongoodneighboursday.ca](http://www.miltongoodneighboursday.ca)

Saturday May 4th

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

*As in the past, Community Day is . . .*

**GOOD NEIGHBOURS - HELPING A NEIGHBOUR WHO NEEDS SOME HELP.** Teams of volunteers go out into the community and spend a few hours doing good deeds for senior citizens and others who need assistance, in completing simple Spring cleanup tasks such as washing windows, yard work, painting a room, lifting, general clean-up and much more.

**NEED HELP?!?!**

