

# Opinion

## Be prepared for emergency

If recent years have taught us of anything, it's that emergencies/disasters can strike at any time — and anywhere.

Last spring's ViaRail train derailment in Burlington was a prime example of that, while many of us will not soon forget the tornado that ripped through the older part of Milton in August 2009.

These local incidents and countless more seen around the world beg the question, just how ready are we for an emergency?

May 5 to 11 is Emergency Preparedness Week, and the Canadian Red Cross is encouraging families to do their part to prepare for potential emergencies in their own community by building an emergency preparedness kit.

It's strongly recommended that everyone prepare to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours following a disaster with a kit that includes the following:

- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio and batteries (or a wind-up radio)
- Toilet paper and personal supplies
- Important papers such as ID, personal documents
- Canned food and bottled water, manual can opener (replace food and batteries once each year)
- One change of clothing and shoes
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Extra car keys and cash
- A whistle to attract attention
- First aid kit
- Medication

The Red Cross also provides free emergency personal preparedness workshops in the community throughout the year. To learn more about disaster preparedness, visit [www.redcross.ca/ready](http://www.redcross.ca/ready).

No one ever thinks disaster will affect them, but it doesn't take much time to help ensure our wellbeing if and when the unexpected should happen. Isn't it worth the effort — just in case?



### SNAPSHOT



### Helping hospital

Members of the Halton chapter (No. 280 of the Order of the Eastern Star celebrated their 60th anniversary in Milton late last month. Here, group members Linda Loiselle and Ernest Loiselle (right) present a cheque for \$6,000 to Michael Beaver on behalf of the Milton District Hospital Foundation.

## Up Front



**Steve LeBlanc**  
NEWS/SPORTS EDITOR

## A humbling night for yours truly at spelling bee

If I'd had any pride in my spelling ability, it would have been all but completely decimated last Thursday night. Yes, I had to kick things off with a three-syllable word — although it's one that would have been child's play for the elite spellers at Literacy North Halton's 10th annual Grate Groan-Up Spelling Bee.

Having heard about the competitive yet friendly fundraiser for years from my mother — an avid cheerleader for the perennial contender Milton Public Library 'Dewey Decimators' (sweet name) — I was interested to check out the event myself.

Holy crap can some of you people out there spell.

And to those who figure this gift is merely a matter of having a photographic (eidetic) memory, think again. Given how many ridiculously-obscure words came up — many of which are rarely found outside of a PhD student's dissertation — it was clear that a simple cram session with the dictionary wouldn't be nearly enough to ensure spelling supremacy.

After all, I have something of a photographic memory myself, but that only helped out in a handful of cases like with subpoena and gnocchi — which are likely the result of reading way too many detective novels and regularly visiting La Rose Italian Bakery of Delicatessen.

**The Canadian**  
CHAMPION

555 Industrial Drive, Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1

**905-878-2341**

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

[www.miltoncanadianchampion.com](http://www.miltoncanadianchampion.com)

V.P. — Group Publisher

**Neil Oliver**

Regional General Manager

**David Harvey**

Director of Advertising

**Katy Letourneau**

Editor in Chief

**Jill Davis, Halton Region**

Managing Editor

**Karen Miceli**

Production Manager

**Manuel Garcia**

Circulation Director

**Charlene Hall**

Office Manager

**Sandy Pare**

On Line Sales Manager

**Daniel Coleman**

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Thursday, is a division of Metroland Media Group Ltd.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

**CCAB** CCAB Audited

Recognized for excellence by

**ocna** Ontario Community Newspapers Association

**CNA** Canadian Community Newspapers Association

**SN** Suburban Newspapers of America

The Canadian Champion is a proud media sponsor for:



The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product