

the Canadian Champion

# Arts & LIFE

**PHARMACY**  
Welcome to the only Pharmacy with a Target attached.

Let us help make sure you and your family are well cared for  
Open 7 Days a Week

Milton Mall Shopping Centre  
55 Ontario St. South, Milton  
P: 905-875-5672  
F: 905-875-5682

**Shamim Asif, R.Ph.**

**RE/MAX REAL ESTATE CENTRE**

**Clayton Hackenbrook**  
Broker  
Serving Milton Since 1980

**905-878-7777**  
www.hackenbrook.com

1A&L | Thursday December 12, 2013 | MILTON CANADIAN CHAMPION | www.insidehalton.com

## Milton's Santa Claus wishes it was Christmas every day

By Julie Slack  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

While the North Pole is the place Santa Claus calls home, Milton also boasts a Santa, and he lives just a few doors down from Town Hall.

Santa — some of his friends and relatives call him Jim Brown — says he spends all year looking forward to the Christmas season.

"I wish it was 365 days of the year," he said. His carefully laundered plush red and white fur suit, complete with four-inch leather belt, granny glasses, white gloves, big string of bells and tall black leather boots, awaits him in his living room. He calls it his "sauna suit" because it's so hot to wear.

For his exclusive interview with the *Champion*, Santa wears his everyday attire...jean shirt and casual pants. But his spirit is unmistakable, and he dabs at tears in his eyes as he relays some of the stories he's heard over the years.

"Out of the mouth of babes," he repeats, chuckling heartily as only Santa can. "You just can't beat that.

"Because they will just say anything."

Santa, who said this year's most popular toy



Santa Claus gets ready to visit with children during the A Heritage Christmas event at Country Heritage Park. *Eric Riehl / Canadian Champion (Follow on Twitter @halton\_photog)*

requests are Rainbow Looms (for making bracelets out of coloured elastics) and Lego, recalls one of the most jaw-dropping moments of his life.

Santa worked his magic at last year's A Heritage Christmas event at Country Heritage Park.

"A little boy sat on my lap and asked for a penguin," he said. "A penguin, I thought, 'how am I going to handle this?' I looked at his mom, and she just shrugged.

"So I reached into my bag (it was filled with plush toys) and grabbed a present," said Santa, who says he's 71.

"It was a stuffed penguin! When I handed it

to him, I don't know whose eyes were bigger — mine, his or everyone who saw what had happened."

Santa's doubtful he could ever top that piece of magic.

Of course, this native Miltonian is the first to admit that his "plump" frame is more than suited to his role.

"I used to be fat until I went fluffy," is how he puts it, chuckling heartily.

Another funny moment he recalled took place at a Community Living North Halton Christmas party.

One of the clients came to sit on Santa's lap and started a friendly conversation. All of the

sudden, he looked at Santa and said "you're not Santa Claus," recalled Santa.

"I said, 'I sure am.' But he says, 'no, you're my buddy from Troy's Diner.'"

Santa, who's been playing the part for eight years now, said even though he might look like the jolly old elf — it's hard to disguise his voice.

Surprisingly, however, one year, as Santa came out of the arena after an appearance, he ran into his own son. They chatted for a few minutes, but Santa quickly realized his son didn't recognize him.

"I phoned him after I got home and told him...we enjoyed a good laugh," he added.

One of his most touching moments was during his dinner break. He was outside at A Heritage Christmas enjoying a bite to eat when a three-year-old girl approached him. He said he asked her if she'd like to meet the reindeer and she said yes without hesitation.

So hand-in-hand they strolled down the snowy pathway toward the barn.

"Me, this great big Santa Claus and her, this tiny, wee thing," he said. "I've got a picture of that somewhere."


Santa has most of his evenings and weekends tied up with his job during December. He visits daycares, clubs, groups and even hospitals to bring cheer, laughter and toys to children.

Some years, on Christmas Eve, he dresses up and marches down his street, jingling his bells so the youngsters lying in bed might hear the sound of Santa as they drift off to sleep.

"I wouldn't have it any other way," said Santa, who was a Town employee for 23 years and is also a Mason. "It's the best time of year and I look forward to it all year."

In return for his hours of service, he gets the joy of seeing smiling toddlers, plenty of Christmas cookies, and oodles of letters that fill his pockets and warm his heart.

Julie Slack can be reached at [jslack@milton-canadianchampion.com](mailto:jslack@milton-canadianchampion.com) or on Twitter @miltonmusing.



## 2014 CHEVROLET CRUZE 2LS

1.8L 4 CYL, AUTO, AIR, PWR GRP, AM/FM/CD/MP3, ONSTAR, ABS, ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL, 10 AIR BAGS, KEYLESS REMOTE ENTRY, SATELLITE RADIO, ST#150904

**LEASE FOR \$109<sup>10</sup>**

BI-WEEKLY, PLUS HST AND LIC, 1.5% 60 MONTHS, 20,000 KPY, DAC.

SUPER HOLIDAY SPECIAL!

Wallace

905-878-2355

801 Main St., East Milton

www.wallacechev.com

COB \$1062 WITH AN OPTIONAL BUYOUT PAID AT THE END OF THE LEASE TOTAL CASH OBLIGATION IS \$18,026.79 NOT INCLUDING THE BUYOUT