

Food network helps needy students get school supplies

BY TERESA LATCHFORD
Staff Writer

A local chiropractic clinic is making sure children in York Region have what they need on their back before returning to school.

This year, there are about 300 students in need of school supplies, including lunch bags, backpacks, pencils and calculators, said Healing Hands Chiropractic and Wellness Centre director Dr. Shawna

Hord.

Along with husband Craig Dingman, also a chiropractor at the Aurora clinic, the couple is always looking to get involved in the community.

"Since we specialize in pediatric care and have a large volume of pediatric clients at the clinic, this is a great drive for us," Dr. Hord said.

The drive was advertised in the clinic's monthly newsletter and the

rest was done by word-of-mouth. A basket was placed in the waiting room to hold the donations, but by the end of the first day, it was overflowing.

"People are always looking for a good cause and if we make it easy, people are more than generous," she added.

The Back to School Backpack program, organized by the York Region Food Network, is designed

to help children from low income families return to school with a boost of self-esteem and take some financial pressure off parents.

"I have been told parents will actually not eat for a few days so they can take money out of their food budget to buy school supplies," Dr. Hord said.

The clinic plans to work with the YRFN annually on this initiative, adding it to the list of drives the

clinic does every year. Dr. Hord hopes to contact every chiropractor in Newmarket, about 17 offices, and ask them to participate next year.

The deadline for this year has passed but collections begin every June.

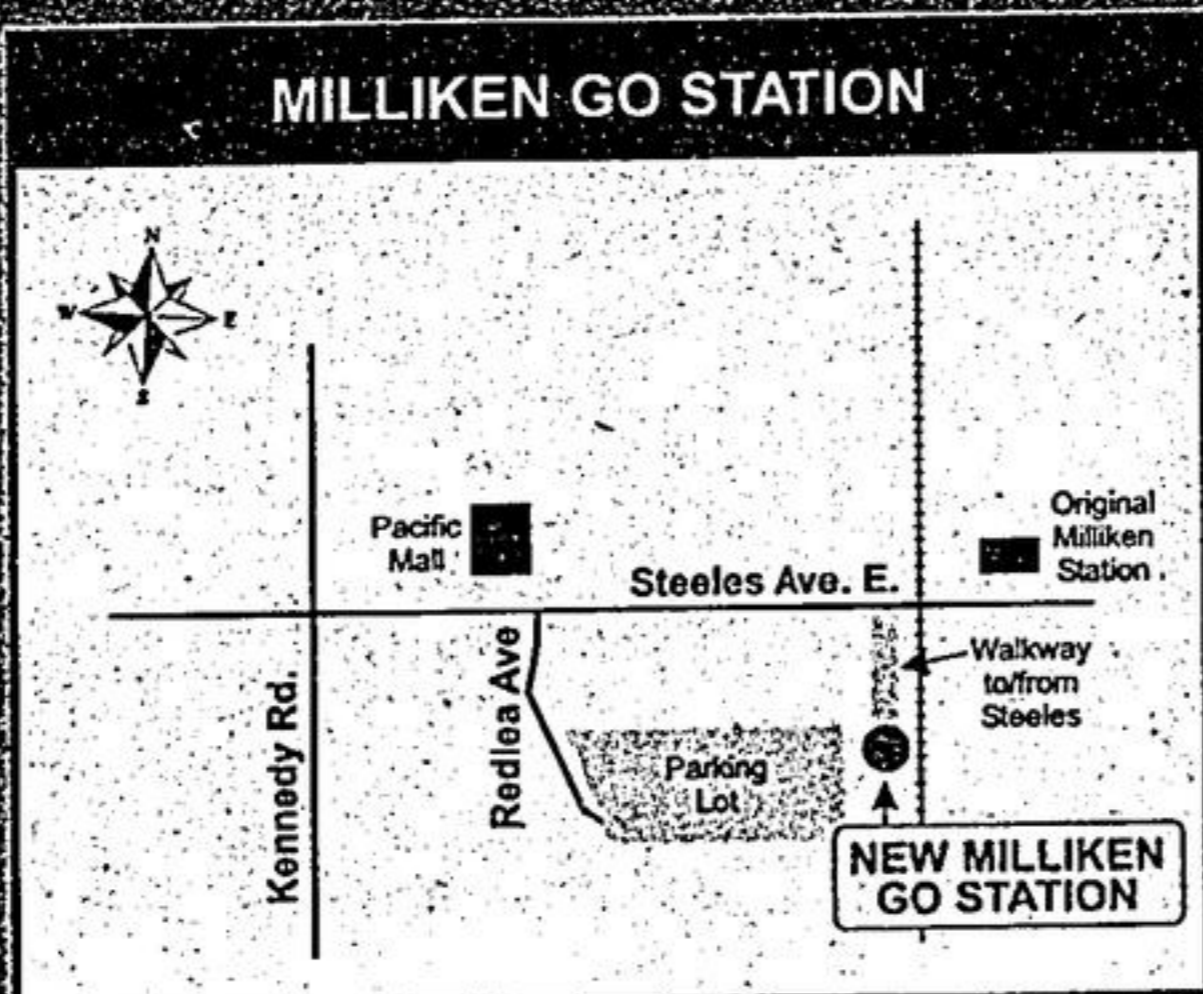
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7:10 a.m.	7:43 a.m.	4:48 p.m.	5:17 p.m.
7:43 a.m.	8:16 a.m.	5:20 p.m.	5:53 p.m.
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