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SEPTEMBER 3, 2004
 VOLUME 7, ISSUE 19

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Challinor challenges immigration policies

BY DONNA DANIELLI

If Town of Milton Councillor John Challinor has his way, the federal government will soon be reviewing its immigration policies. Challinor introduced a Notice of Motion at the Town Council meeting on Monday August 30, asking Council to support a request to the federal government to create a Royal Commission to review current immigration levels, as well as develop a federal funding mechanism to support immigration driven growth.

WE SEEM TO BE STUCK ON GROWTH AS THE GREAT EVIL

"I want it to be clear that I am not advocating no immigration," Challinor stated. "We seem to be stuck on growth as the great evil when really it's a symptom of a larger issue, and that issue is immigration."

Challinor's motion commented that growth can be either beneficial or harmful to a municipality, depending on how well planned and sustainable it is. Of particular concern for him is the development and financing of the supportive infrastructure, such as housing alternatives, and recreational, cultural, educational and health services which the GTA's rapid growth requires.

Canadian immigration laws allow for 250,000 immigrants annually from around the world, more than half of which settle in the GTA. "The issue I have with immigration is not who comes

here," explained Challinor, "But rather how many come and how many are settling in the Greater Toronto Area." Challinor also pointed out that at this time of rapid growth, funds from the provincial and federal governments to the municipalities have dwindled to a trickle, a concern that was shared by his colleague, Councillor Cindy Lunau.

"It's not a question of having the immigration," she said, "It's a question of how this is supported and right now it is supported on the property tax base. It's time to upload some of these costs to where they can be sustainable."

Councillors Jan Mowbray and Wendy Schau expressed concerns about the motion in view of the low birth rate in Canada. Schau pointed out that we are not reproducing at a rate to replace ourselves, and that new immigrants add to the economy by purchasing homes and spending money in local stores. "We need new immigrants to be part of the work force and also to sustain our economic growth," she pointed out. "I believe that we do need new immigration and at the level it is presently planned to occur."

For Councillor John Challinor, the Council's eventual support of the Notice of Motion was a step in the right direction. "I hope that at the end of the day, someone looks at this and says they may be right," he said. "I'm just trying to throw a little light on this issue. It's time to put everything back on the table."

Rain delays play at Highway 7



PHOTO BY VALERIE DAVICH

Construction work has brought Rockwood to a standstill. Rain and delays in the issuance of a provincial water permit are blamed for the state of play. The public works department at Guelph-Eramosa Township says that paving will be completed by September 3rd and the road re-opened.

Deep sea explorer and author to speak at breakfast

Dr. Joe MacInnis was the first person to dive under the North Pole, and among the first five people to view the underwater remains of the Titanic. In his keynote address entitled "Leadership and the Environment - Lessons from Inside the Ocean", Dr. MacInnis will share his perspective and insight on the world around us.

The Bell/Chairman Breakfast on the Environment takes place on Friday September 17th at the Rattlesnake Point Golf Club in Milton. Registration and breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. at the cost of \$40 per person. Tables of 10 are available and corporate table also has the opportunity to sponsor Halton students to join them for breakfast.

For more information contact the Halton Region Business Development Centre at 905-825-6000, ext. 7514, toll free 1-866-4HALTON

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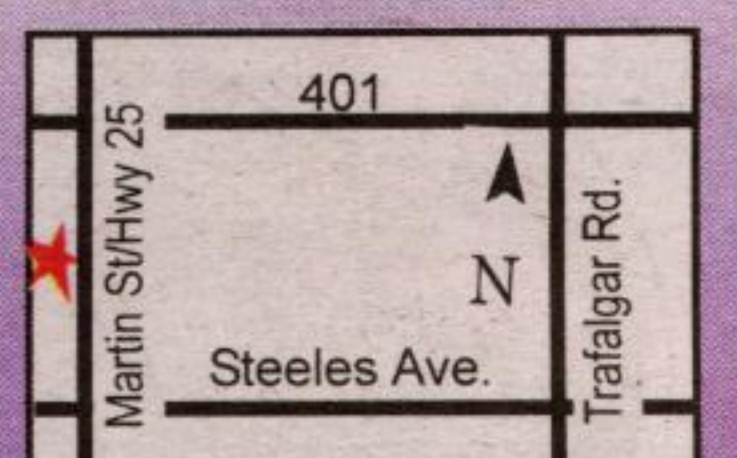
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