

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Milton Rural Residents Association (the MRRA) has called upon Mayor Gordon Krantz and Council to ensure that the citizens of Milton are properly represented on the board of Conservation Halton. The Conservation Authorities Act provides for three representatives for communities with populations between 50,000 and 100,000; Milton, with a population of some 54,000 only has 2 representatives now on the board of Conservation Halton.

The MRRA believes it is important that Milton's new representative be from the Milton electorate at large, unaffected by political or special interest agendas, rather than another Council member or Town staff member, in order to ensure the views and opinions of the general public are heard. Milton Council is already well-represented with its two political appointees.

The MRRA looks for the Mayor and Council to expedite a clear and transparent process to ensure proper representation is in place as soon as possible.

M.J. Grimwood, Milton, Ontario

EDITORIAL

Some 1960's movies rarely play on TV. Sometimes it's because the message of the movie is now outdated and sometimes it's because what was once considered risqué and avant-garde is now revealed as an embarrassing self-conscious clunker. One movie that I did enjoy in the theatre though was 1961's *The Outsider*, starring Tony Curtis as Ira Hayes, one of the marines who raised the flag on Iwo-Jima. Hayes was a Pima Indian from Arizona who was greatly embarrassed by the fame and adulation that was showered on him for what in retrospect was a pretty insignificant contribution to the war effort. He was whisked from the danger of the front lines so that he could be paraded as a bone-fide aboriginal war hero. Hayes never got over feeling shame that he had a 'safe' war while of the 250 men in his company only 27 escaped death or injury. In Hayes own words "we knew we hadn't done much but you couldn't tell them that." Hayes drank himself to death at the age of 32.

Fame and adulation are strange beasts. We honour the memory of Terry Fox every year with fund-raising runs. The sadness we feel at his passing is still very strong. It's a personal sense of loss to us all and it prompts us to donate when we might otherwise not. Rick Hansen's name also evokes pride and identification of us all as Canadians. What does sadden me is that almost no one now remembers Steve Fonyo.

Steve is the one legged runner who was inspired to retrace Terry's steps and to complete the coast to coast run of 7,924 km, going through 17 pairs of shoes, 6 artificial legs and raising \$13 million for Cancer along the way. Although Steve was given the Order of Canada in 1987 he could never cope with the feeling by some people that what he had done was somehow insignificant, that because he was not the first to try it that it didn't really count. Like Ira Hayes, Steve sought comfort in the bottle and managed to drink himself into court and house arrest. I'm happy to say that he seems from recent reports to be at peace with his demons, living a quiet life in the BC interior.

The City of Kingston has the right approach. It has named streets after all three athletes. While I will probably shed a quiet tear for Terry on the 18th, I will also remember to raise a glass for Rick and Steve.

Gary Carr Report



Health Care - providing a comprehensive system that Canadians can depend on.

Canadians expect and deserve a health care system that will be there for their families when they need it most. I have and will continue to embrace the principles of a universally accessible, publicly funded healthcare system.

I believe in a system that will be able to respond to the health care needs of everyone in society. I also believe in a system that will be accessible to all Canadians no matter what their income or ability to pay.

I am committed to the five principles of the Canada Health Act - public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability; and, accessibility.

In the last election Paul Martin and I promised that we would pursue several initiatives which would result in tangible progress in the areas of health care that require it most. To that end, we have taken a far-reaching approach to health care and we are seeing results:

The 2004 Health Minister's Accord

The Federal Government and Provincial and Territorial Governments signed an unprecedented deal to ensure the long-term viability of health care. The Paul Martin government has committed funding of \$41 billion over ten years in support of the action plan and provides long term predictable funding to the provinces.

Development of a National Waiting Times Reduction Strategy

All Provincial Ministers of Health have agreed to take concrete steps to achieve meaningful reductions in wait times in priority areas such as cancer, heart, diagnostic imaging, joint replacements and sight restoration. With this work we are also committed to developing benchmarks and comparable indicators for public reporting so that Canadians can see the national statistics and we can determine acceptable timelines for provision of these services.

In support of this, the Paul Martin Government is providing \$5.5 billion over 10 years. Budget 2005 also provides \$15 million over 4 years in direct federal funding for complementary wait times initiatives.

Primary Health Care

Primary health care is the first contact that many Canadians have with the health care system. A goal of the Paul Martin government is for all Canadians to have access to an appropriate care provider 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This includes ensuring all Canadians

have access to a family doctor and emergency services whenever they need it.

The 2005 federal budget commits \$75 million over five years to support this objective, which will help address shortages of health care professionals and assist efforts to reduce wait times.

Healthy Living Strategy

I believe that a valuable health system includes more than just reactive measures that respond once Canadians are sick. With the creation of the new Public Health Agency in 2004, the Liberal Government makes keeping Canadians healthy a priority.

Through the Strategy on Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Prevention, the Government of Canada is taking a leadership role to address unhealthy eating, physical inactivity, obesity and preventable chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular diseases.

The \$300 million investment in Budget 2005 will help to keep Canadians healthy.

Health Research

The Paul Martin government believes that solid research is the cornerstone of a strong health care system and significantly influences our understanding of where we need to make adjustments and improvements.

Budget 2005 increased Canadian Institute Health Research's budget by \$32 million a year, bringing their annual budget to nearly \$700 million.

There is perhaps no more important way that Government can make a significant impact on the lives of Canadians than providing an effective, universally accessible health care system. This comprehensive approach to health will ensure Canadians stay as healthy as possible for as long as possible and will provide the care that Canadians need at the most crucial times. These are the issues that matter to Canadians and this is another way the Paul Martin and I committed to securing our social foundations.

If you have any questions or comments on any issue please feel free to email me at carrg@parl.gc.ca or call me at 905-693-0166. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Gary Carr M.P.
Halton



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The Town of Milton is now accepting applications for the

2005 Milton Community Fund

Application deadline: October 3, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.

The Milton Community Fund was established to distribute a portion of the funds received from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (Mohawk location). The Town of Milton will consider proposals for cash grants from non-profit organizations or individuals for activities that add to our quality of life or enhance the image of the town.

Guidelines for the application procedure, including criteria for funding and application forms, are available at the following locations:

- Town Hall Annex 555, 555 Industrial Drive
- Milton Sports Centre, 605 Santa Maria Blvd.
- Downloadable from the Town's website (under "Grant Programs")

Applying for travel funding

Please contact staff to review timelines as the deadlines for travel fund requests are variable.

Have questions or need help with your application?

Contact Joy Anderson at 905-878-7252 ext. 2604 or joy.anderson@milton.ca

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