

Letters to the editor

Firefighter dismayed with town's view of OMERS changes

Dear editor,
I am writing to express my dismay at Halton Hills council's overreaction and misleading of the public over the proposed changes to the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS).

To say they would no longer have any say in the governance of the plan is untrue. Municipalities would maintain equal representation on the board with municipal employees.

What this legislation allows, is for municipal employees to bargain with their employers changes to their pension plan. It also removes the provincial government's oversight of the plan. The provincial government, as a guarantor of the plan, held the final say over any proposed changes to it, even though they had no employees enrolled and had

made no contributions to it. OMERS has proven itself over the past 40 years to be one of the best run and most successful pension plans in the world. The provincial government has seen fit to right a long standing wrong and allow fairness in the OMERS pension plan.

As a firefighter, we are one of the groups who have been long pushing for the proposed changes. Police and fire make up 10 per cent of the members of OMERS yet pay 30 per cent of the premiums. We want to get some of our money that has been contributed into our plan back in enhanced benefits. I have seen many of our members die early of occupational disease and we have a greatly shortened life expectancy. We would like the ability to retire earlier at full pension.

Any enhancements would have to be negotiated directly with the employer (cities and towns across Ontario). What bothers municipalities is that the tables are no longer unfairly slanted in their favour with their control over the board between provincial and municipal representatives.

I am certain with the Town of Halton Hills' track record of failing to properly fund municipal services (especially essential services such as fire protection) that they don't want to make the tough decisions at the budget table, or perhaps have to take money from some of their pet projects that offer little benefit to the taxpayers of Halton Hills. Rick Bonette has lost my support for another term as our mayor.

Steven Buckingham,
Georgetown

Reluctant voter will Think Twice this time

Dear editor,

There are tons of reasons why I love living in the Halton Hills-Erin area, but voting in federal elections is not one of them. Until Canada adopts proportional representation, my votes usually don't count.

In this election, many Canadians are saying, 'It's time for a change', and leaning toward leader Stephen Harper and his Conservatives.

But my Canada does not include tearing up the Kyoto Accord, which sets out a desperately needed blueprint for action on climate change. It does not include rollback of the landmark national child care program recently negotiated with all 10 provinces. My Canada does not include a health care system that is commercialized and privatized, or joining George Bush in his next misguided war in the Middle East.

My Canada does include decent housing programs for low income and homeless Canadians, and accessible fees for college and university students. It does include a new national strategy for people with disabilities, pay equity legislation, and the agreement just achieved with First Nations at the Aboriginal Summit, targeting funds to alleviate a housing and health care crisis for some of Canada's most vulnerable citizens.

It's not my usual choice, but this election, I'm voting Liberal in Wellington-Halton Hills.

I urge all citizens who think it's time for a change to visit the Web site of the non-partisan coalition, Think Twice on January 23 (www.thinktwiccanada.ca), which encourages all Canadians to vote strategically this federal election.

Liz Armstrong,
Erin

HONDA

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Accord Sedan SE model CM5636J shown

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CORRECTION NOTICE
Samsung S4212 42" Plasma EDTV 10061664. On pg. 4 of our January 13th flyer, this product is advertised for \$2299.99 after a \$400 savings. In fact, it is \$2299.99 after a \$100 savings.
We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers and thank you for your patience.

Tooth Chatter

by **ALEX TRENTON DENTURIST**

FRONT TEETH ARE VERY VALUABLE!
A front tooth is worth \$309,000.00 or .12 cents, depending upon how much you figure, according to a survey by the American Association of Endodontists reported in the Chicago Tribune. The materials that go into making up the average tooth-calcium, phosphorous, water, etc. cost only about .76 cents to buy. But in a survey of 1,023 men and women taken by the association, people put a much higher value on their teeth. Nearly one-fourth of the respondents said that they wouldn't sell a tooth for anything. About 15 percent said that they'd want at least \$1 million, but the rest were not so demanding and the average asking price from the entire group came out to \$309,000.00!
Wow! If you have any interesting "tooth tidbits" you would like to share with our readers, give us a call or mail it to our office. We would love to hear from you!

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Alexander Trenton, D.D., F.C.A.D. (A)
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Lease and finance offers are from Honda Canada Finance Inc., on approved credit. †Based on a 2006 Accord Sedan SE, model CM5636J (††Odyssey LX, model RL3826E). Lease for 48 months at \$317.99 (††\$348.00) per month plus applicable taxes with 96,000 km allowance (12c/km exceeding allowance), \$4,963.00 (††\$7,132.00) down payment or equivalent trade acceptable to dealer (\$0 down on approved credit from Honda Canada Finance Inc.). Initiation payment of \$6,125.14 (††\$8,654.00) includes down payment, first monthly payment, registration, security deposit of \$0, freight and P.D.E. and taxes. PPSA is additional. Total freight and P.D.E. is \$1,310.00 (††\$1,455.00). Total lease payment is \$23,312.50 (††\$27,463.40). Option to purchase at lease end for \$12,925.00 (††\$15,936.00) and taxes. Accord (††Odyssey) leases calculated with finance rate of 5.9%. Rate may change effective February 1, 2006 and will affect down payment, security deposit, residual value and initiation figures. Dealer may lease for less. †††††Offers valid through January 31, 2006 at participating dealers only. See participating dealer for details. Offers subject to change by manufacturer at any time. May not be combined with any other promotion. †MSRP does not include freight, P.D.E. or taxes. †Horsepower and torque calculations reflect new SAE J1349 procedures revised August 2004. †See dealer for 2006 EnerGuide or visit vehicles.gc.ca. †As reported by DesRosiers Automotive Consultants, Jan. 2005.