

IMPORTANT TO VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The 2018 municipal election is nearly upon us. Oct. 22 is voting day for municipalities across the province unless, of course, you cast your ballot early in an advance poll. If you have voted already, or plan to on Monday, give yourself a pat on the back.

No, really. The fact of the matter is that far too few of us even bother to vote in municipal elections. While the 2015 federal election's voter turnout hit an impressive 68.5 per cent and the recent provincial election saw 58.4 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot, most municipal elections struggle to see voter turnout crack 40 per cent. And that's a shame.

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countless others. If you have concerns about the delivery of local services, future development and/or your annual property tax bill - a perennial gripe for many homeowners - then now is the time to express it both to the incumbent politicians seeking re-election and the new candidates hoping to replace them.

It's very easy to get turned off politics these days, but given the important role municipal government plays in our communities, it behooves us all to take some time over the next few days, learn a little bit about those who desire to represent us and then vote for the candidates we think will do the best job.

After all, this is your best opportunity to voice what you want for the future of your community. A chance like this only comes once every four years.

Granted, municipal issues may not always possess quite the same gravitas as those at the provincial or federal levels, but important decisions are still made at your local council table. Arguably, the choices made by members of council at your town or city hall have more of an impact on your daily life than the legislation that gets debated and passed at Queen's Park or Parliament Hill - even if the latter two arenas garner considerably more press coverage and punditry.

That's not to say that federal and provincial issues aren't important, but upper and lower-tier municipalities are directly responsible for the administration of many services you rely on every day, including local and regional road maintenance, providing clean drinking water, garbage collection and



From left, Brett Ryan, Ray and Alana Plourde, Kim Jesch, Linda Ryan, John Field, Pat Ward, Paul Lahie, Tammara and Rob Champoux visit the Pompeii Ruins in Campania, Italy with a copy of their favourite community newspaper. Going away? Pack a copy of the Champion in your suitcase, snap a creative photo and email your Champion Tracks submission to sleblanc@metroland.com. Please include everyone's name and destination information.

Kim Jesch photo

LETTERS & COMMENTARY

MAN'S ACTIONS AN INSPIRATION

Every weekend at the Milton park, behind the arena, there is a man who, when walking his dog, goes with a garbage bag and picks up after other less community-minded people.

I was impressed when I saw him and see this as a great and uplifting story.

I hope you can inspire others with this story as this gentleman inspired me.

Unfortunately, even though I spoke to him and thanked him for his example I did not get his name.

MARGARET MURPHY

A CARING, VIGILANT COMMUNITY

Social media and phones were abuzz as folks responded to an alert that a woman was missing in rural Milton's Nassagaweya community earlier this month. Thankfully, there was a happy ending. I was copied in this email to the

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CHAMPION TRACKS

Halton Regional Police Service, which I think is worth sharing.

"(Recently), a neighbouring woman was observed walking across a hay field toward a cornfield and bush on our farm. Knowing the woman suffers from dementia we became alarmed. Jumping into boots we took off in pursuit to restrain her. Too late - amazingly she simply disappeared from view and our efforts to locate her."

"My wife phoned Halton police for assistance. Shortly thereafter, officers from Milton and Georgetown arrived, the first being Jared Hickey. Subsequently, more officers arrived to help. An officer from the K9 unit was dispatched.

Fear for her safety set in, considering many acres of bush and corn fields complicated mat-

ters."

"My wife and I greatly appreciated the response, concerns expressed by all the officers attending. It is reassuring to residents to know that in times of need the support of our officers is available - something we should all be proud of and grateful for."

"The lady was located by an officer a mile or two from the original sighting, safe and sound."

"All's well that ends well. Many thanks to the Halton Regional Police Service for a job thoughtfully and competently completed."

I believe the Marsh family deserves a thank you, as well.

If not for their actions, the result may have been very sad. A caring, vigilant community is a safe community.

CINDY LUNAU

YOUR OPINIONS

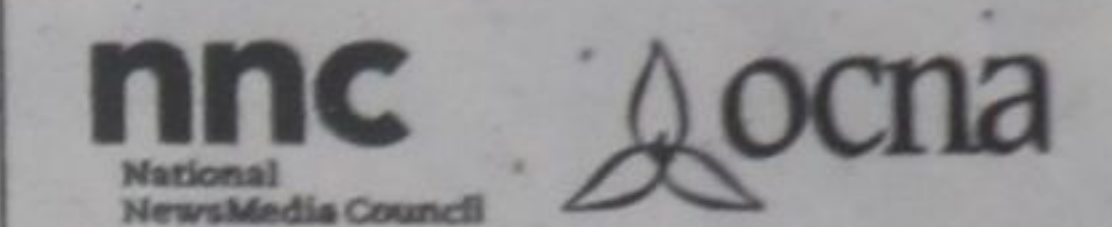
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MILTON
The Canadian Champion

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