

IT'S A LOT FOR ANYONE TO TAKE ON: COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

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of Milton Canada Day committee, told the Milton Champion.

Pedersen cited "a lack of volunteers" as the reason why the group is "moving on," a decision that was taken after their continued efforts to find "young blood" to take over the responsibility were unsuccessful.

"We're lacking people power," said Pedersen, who has been president for about 10 years. There are about 10 to 12 "core members" that work all year round to put on the event. In the last couple of years, the committee has "lost" their treasurer, volunteer co-ordinator and advertising person — doubling the workload for the rest of the members.

"We all work full-time as well," she said.

In addition, Pedersen said that service clubs that

THE ISSUE:
CANADA DAY COMMITTEE CAN'T FIND SUITABLE REPLACEMENT TO ORGANIZE EVENT LOCAL IMPACT: WITH CURRENT MEMBERS STEPPING DOWN, THE FUTURE OF MILTON CANADA DAY EVENT IS UNCLEAR.

have helped and supported them over the years don't have the manpower either, giving an example of the Milton Lions Club that "couldn't even open their booth" in the event last year due to not having enough staff — though "thankfully" it won't be the case this



Friends Jonah Hayhoe, Zaven Froats and Ben Hayhoe get dressed up at the Canada Day photo booth at last year's celebrations.

Graham Paine/Torstar

year. The Milton Canada Day celebration started in Rotary Park before it was moved to the Milton Fairgrounds to accommodate the growing number of attendees and programs — eventually becoming an all-day and all-evening event.

Sharing her concern over what the future might hold for next year's Canada

Day celebration, Pedersen said it's unlikely that there would be anything happening unless some group steps up.

"Somebody can very easily just do fireworks ... there could be a lot of variations on this. (But) the event ... the way it stands today — it's a lot for anyone to take on," Pedersen said, adding

that out of courtesy they have notified the town about their decision.

The annual celebration isn't an official Town of Milton event, though the town is one of the sponsors.

Jodie Sales, director of corporation communications and government relations, said in an email that the town is "grateful to the

volunteers of the Canada Day committee for their service to our community."

She added that staff will be bringing a report to council about the future of Canada Day celebrations in late September or early October. Pedersen welcomes anyone who might have any questions about the committee to contact her, though ideally they're seeking for a group of individuals. "If somebody approaches me just as an individual and says, 'I'm interested,' that's not going to do it. You need a whole committee," she said. "When we started this out 20 years ago, our goal was not for it to end at any point. So, we would love for it to continue."

STORY BEHIND THE STORY

After receiving a press release from the committee, Bambang Sadewo reached out to the president to learn more of their decision and the potential impact to community.



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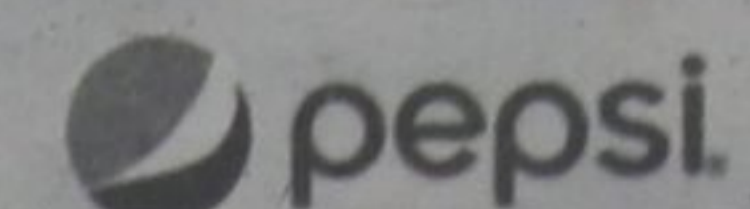
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