

OUR READERS WRITE:

Dire need for pool

Dear Sir,
Over the past few weeks, I and many other people of Milton have been made aware more than ever that there is a dire need in our town for a swimming pool. Many people do not realize that the E. C. Drury pool is government owned and is already being rented out to near capacity. As the town of Milton is third in line for rental, this obviously does not leave enough water time for all the aquatic activities which a town this size requires.

As facts and figures will prove, an overwhelming amount of interest is being shown in any aquatic activity. In fact, we have many irate people either because of can-

cellation of a program, such as scuba and public swimming, or programs being filled to capacity within three days of issuance of the brochure.

This obviously shows that it is time for action not just words. Surely, this has now become a matter of enough importance for the council to take another long, hard look at.

With the possibility of many additional children coming into the E. C. Drury school in the near future, how much water time will be left for the town?

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Mary Timbers,
539 Churchill Ave., Milton.

Town needs a pool

Dear Sir,
I, too, felt very disappointed that the public swim had been cancelled completely and decided to make enquiries about this. I came to the conclusion that I have taken the E.C. Drury School pool for granted and not really taken into consideration the problems the school encounters when renting the pool to the people of Milton. The E.C. Drury pool is for the children of that school and the time available for the town is therefore limited.

I think that we should keep in mind that Milton is a growing town without an indoor pool of its own. I would like to pose two questions that I now feel are actually more

important than a two-hour public swim. Are the aquatic programs now being offered sufficient for a town of this size? Is there a need for an indoor pool in Milton?

In answer to the first question, judging by the swift response to the program, I do not think so. As regards the second question, the Milton Recreation Department is now investigating both the cost and need for an indoor pool. I hope the people of Milton will support them in this and that Milton will have a pool in the near future.

Mrs. Jane Ovenden,
496 Woodward St.,
Milton

Comedy situation

Dear Sir:
The recent reporting of the Milton and Regional Council meetings by The Champion, reads like a situation comedy on television. One wonders what kind of people we have on town council.

I am referring in this instance to the statements made by our representatives, in the presence of the media, that letters to town council, written in all good faith, be, and I quote: "Drop this one in the wastebasket, just as you should have done with the first letter." One wonders how many other letters or reports, no matter how trivial or unimportant they may seem to the council, have been swept under the rug in this manner without even the common courtesy of a reply.

This would give the impression to the intelligent reader that we are living in a South American "Banana" Republic, instead of a normal Ontario town.

It would seem that some Milton Councilors are running the whole show in town council. When they snap the whip, everyone else seems to jump.

I am not faulting the mayor, in any way

for wishing to act according to the courage of his convictions, but it does seem rather ludicrous that he can be influenced to such an extent, against his better judgement. Certainly the mayor was right in wishing to refer the report from the town solicitor on the legal aspects of fluoridation, to the region, who are the legislated appointees for water responsibility in the Halton Region.

It is realized that there is an upcoming election and a good deal of political infighting is going on at the present time, and many councilors are apparently riding on the coattails of what they think is the popular opinion of the electorate. On the contrary, I think that Mayor Gordon is doing an honest and sincere job in his office, and should be congratulated for wishing to do the right thing for the people of Milton.

I don't think that important issues can be relegated to the wastebasket quite this easily, and am sure that the majority of readers are able to "read between the lines" and judge accordingly.

Yours truly,
Dr. J.R. Cowan
Milton

Wants contractual details

Dear Sir,
Subject: Contract negotiations with Halton's teachers.

As a ratepayer and parent of elementary school children, I read your article regarding the "Teachers' Contract Negotiations" with much concern.

However, after reading your article, I concluded that here surely was an example of poor and lazy reporting. Nowhere was mention made as to the relative merits of the teachers' position versus the ratepayer.

If I were the editor of your newspaper, I would report the facts to the public.

- 1977 average teacher earnings in Halton;
- 1965 average teacher earnings in Halton;
- 1977 average principal's earning in Halton;

-1965 average principal's earning in Halton;

-1977 \$ differential between highest and lowest paid teacher;

-1977 average salary paid to a school cleaning woman;

-1977 average fringes per teacher;

-1977 professional development days;

-Present negotiating demands made by the teachers and the offers by the board.

If you investigate and dare report these facts, I am sure that your readers will be shocked and dismayed at the inequitable rates of pay to our school teachers.

Yours very truly,
C. Stoenhof
R.R. Campbellville,
Steeles Ave.

Hydro rates up

The cost of providing hydro to Milton homeowners is expected to jump by 9.8 per cent by March of 1979.

But because of excess revenue on hand during 1978, a rebate of about five per cent will come into effect. With that cushion the actual increase to the homeowner is expected to be about four per cent, according to Milton Hydro manager O.L. Hadley.

According to Ontario Hydro, unexpected high sales of power in the U.S. and higher than predicted performance of the nuclear generating plants could result in \$129 million excess revenue for 1978.

Ontario Hydro customers would then receive a rebate of about five per cent in 1979.

This year's new rate and promised rebate follow a similar increase procedure last year.

Without the benefit of Ontario Hydro rebates, hydro customers would in effect, pay an increase of 27 per cent over the three years of 1977, '78 and '79, said Mr. Hadley.

Charges dirty pool

Dear Mr. Editor,
I was appalled at the report on Halton radio, of our council meeting last evening. It's quite unfortunate that our former mayor has to resort to namecalling and grandstanding in order to build a platform for her election.

If Mrs. MacArthur remembers a few

months ago when she wiggled her way into a council chair, it was not the people of Milton that put her there.

I suggest she stop playing dirty pool and get down to business, before she makes Milton the laughing stock of Halton.

S. Brethet

Shameful indifference

To the Editor,
In recent years we have heard about the callous disregard for human beings in some centres on this continent, but Milton seemed far removed from such shameful indifference. Now this has reached us too, with the shocking treatment of the Lovatt family who were willing to open their home to six disadvantaged young people. If couples are unwilling or unable to take children or teenagers into their homes themselves, surely they would not try to hinder others who have enough love and compassion to do so. There is such a pitiful scarcity of homes for children in need.

There was a time when people took others in difficulty into their homes and neighbors rallied to help. What has become of this spirit? I believe the majority of Miltonians

still practise the golden rule and will let the councilors know what they think of such inhuman behavior. Can you enjoy your mansions and 10-acre estates while turning a deaf ear and a blind eye to children in need? Where are the Good Samaritans in Nassagaweya?

This disgraceful episode, which was reported in the daily press, has given Milton a black eye which most of us don't deserve. Let's get our priorities straight. Is there anything you consider more important than the welfare and well-being of our young people? The youth are the most important asset that Milton or any community has.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Powys
121 Mill St.

No malice intended

Dear Sir:
In reply to an article which appeared in your Aug. 2 edition of The Champion, I would like the opportunity to set the records right. A petition for no parking signs on Guelph Line and Third Sideroad to eliminate the parking problem at Dad's Restaurant, was not done out of spite or malice towards the Ryckman's.

But simply to try and ensure safety for

our families, neighbors and people passing through our area, believing it was best done before we had a fatality to live with the rest of our lives.

Thanking you for this space in your paper,
I remain
Lilly McLean
R. R. 2, Campbellville.

Stung, not bitten

Dear Roy:
I noticed a small news item on page B6 of The Champion Sept. 27 stating that some people were bitten by bees at Milton Fair and treated by St. John Ambulance workers.

Now the day that someone gets bitten by the back end of a bee, you should give it front page treatment. Either you missed out on a big news scoop or else those people

at the fair were stung.

Yours truly,
Irene Saunders,
Hornby.

(Editor's Note: That ain't all, as the saying goes. We just re-read the article and it sounds like the people were bitten by the St. John people—not the bees. Sorry about that!)

Refused

Town councilors voted 5-3 Monday night to have Treasurer Don Loughage file in the "G File" (garbage can) a letter he received Monday from a local banking concern.

The letter apparently contained an offer from one town bank to give council a better deal on its financial business than the Bank of Montreal, which has handled council's money for the past five years.

The treasurer had brought proposals from several local financial institutions to last week's council meeting, and the council had decided to retain the status quo and keep B of M as its agent. He said he wrote each of the firms and thanked them for their proposals.

One bank manager (whose name and firm remained nameless at Councillor Russ Powadiuk's insistence) had since reviewed the treasurer's summary of proposals and came back on Monday with a new offer. "He wanted another chance at it," said the treasurer.

"I am not interested in playing that game," said Powadiuk as he called for the letter to be filed away. Some councilors hesitated to file a letter they hadn't read, but on a recorded vote, the 5-3 majority despatched the letter to the garbage pail.

Yours very truly,
C. Stoenhof
R.R. Campbellville,
Steeles Ave.

Apple orchard faces boom, traffic snarls

Having one of the most popular apple orchards in the region of southern Ontario is not always easy. In fact, it can represent a few headaches, when as many as 12,000 families decide to pay a Sunday afternoon visit.

Tom Chudleigh, owner of Chudleigh's Apple Farm on Highway 25 north of Milton is accustomed to having several hundred people come out to his farm on a fall weekend to buy apples, but this year he has witnessed a case of complete chaos. It happened on Sunday, Sept. 23, when cars jammed into his 20-acre parking lot and then lined both sides of the highway for half a mile each way.

The problem has been partially solved with the help of the Milton OPP.

For the first time in several years, an OPP officer has been assigned to the farm location to direct traffic along the highway and prevent any more nightmarish traffic snarls.

Few complaints have been actually directed to Mr. Chudleigh, but he has learned many neighbors as well as motorists were more than a little upset with the situation.

"I realize we are upsetting the neighbors with this, but we are trying to do everything possible to accommodate them," he stated.

In past years, the farm has tried to hire police officers, but new regulations prevented Mr. Chudleigh from having the services of an off-duty police officer.

This year, that changed when it became clearly evident that the provincial highway was badly in need of a trained traffic director.

Milton OPP received complaints and sent a man out to check the situation. Since that weekend, an OPP officer has been assigned to direct traffic

on busy days for the duration of the apple season.

Twenty acres of parking space normally accommodates all the visitors, (estimated to hold between 800 and 1,100 cars) but this year, a combination of good weather and the Milton Fall Fair resulted in droves of motorists along the highway.

The apple farm realizes the inconvenience it causes some neighbors for the apple season (six weekends) but he tries to be a good neighbor, said Mr. Chudleigh.

In the last two winters, he has regularly plowed 15 neighboring driveways, and never sent a bill. He figures it is one way he can show his appreciation.

"We think we are doing what we can to be good neighbors," he continued, adding that a new apple orchard had been slated for half of the parking lot, but that idea was scrapped when it became obvious parking was a crucial need.

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