



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9
(905) 878-2341
Fax: 876-2364
Classified: 875-3300

The Canadian Champion, published twice weekly at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax / Pickering News Advertiser; Alliston Herald/Courier; Barrie Advance; Brampton Guardian; Burlington Post; City Parent; Collingwood / Wasaga Connection; East York Mirror; Etobicoke Guardian; Georgetown Independent/ Acton Free Press; Kingston This Week; Lindsay This Week; Markham Economist & Sun; Midland / Penetanguishene Mirror; Mississauga News; Newmarket / Aurora Era Banner; Northumberland News; North York Mirror; Oakville Beaver; Orillia Today; Oshawa / Whitby / Clarington / Port Perry This Week; Peterborough This Week; Richmond Hill / Thornhill / Vaughan Liberal; Scarborough Mirror; Uxbridge / Stouffville Tribune; Today's Seniors. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

Ian Oliver Publisher
Neil Oliver Associate Publisher
Rob Kelly Editor
Karen Huisman Circulation Manager
Teri Casas Office Manager
Tim Coles Production Manager
Ted Lindsay Advertising Manager

Rationalizations won't wash

On the front page of today's paper is a story about a group of people who essentially shame violators into shying away from parking in handicapped spaces.

That is, they try and shame them. Obviously some people just don't care. They are likely the minority of drivers who indulge in this odious practice.

Nothing much will sway them except a stiff fine, if that. But we suspect the far larger group of drivers who are prone to temptation when it comes to using handicapped parking do so with a convenient rationalization.

These otherwise generally responsible people tell themselves that they are only going into a nearby store or business for a minute, and that during the brief time they are away from their vehicle chances are nobody will want to use the disabled parking space.

The problem with this is that it is a rationalization, plain and simple, for doing something that one really should avoid.

While it is true that the laws of probability operate in favour of the driver who abuses disabled parking, the fact is, if everybody thought that way, and everybody did it, there really would be no disabled parking in many busy areas. There would just be a consistent flow of vehicles pulling into the convenient spots closest to the door for two, three, five or 10 minute stints.

Rationalizing taking the disabled parking spot is like rationalizing any other petty offence. Take speeding, or double parking, or just slowing instead of coming to a full halt at a stop sign. While it is not particularly disruptive for any one person or small group to do it, if everybody did so the driving situation would become dangerously unstable, and quickly.

Just think of how genuinely inconvenient life becomes for the disabled if they can't use their designated parking spaces. Think of the hassle of negotiating curbs in wheelchairs. Think about struggling across a lot and between parked cars with a walker. If nothing else, those who would take advantage of the situation may want to stop and ponder how others, who would not do such a thing, view them. Leave the disabled parking for those who genuinely need it. Always. Period, end of story. Any other approach is just selfish.

— Rob Kelly

Thinking of Manitoba

People interested in donating to help relieve the suffering caused by flooding in Manitoba can do so at Milton Mall, as per the information with the photo appearing on page 2 of today's issue. No doubt the contributions from Milton will be substantial, as they so often are for worthy causes.

Many people in this area have prairie roots, or lived there for a period of time. Even those who have only visited often remark on two things with regard to prairie dwellers — their open friendliness and their resourceful strength of character.

No doubt these attributes will serve our western neighbours in very good stead over the days, weeks and months to come. But we can help them along a little bit by letting them know we thought of them and did something about that. Donations, no matter how modest, will undoubtedly be deeply appreciated.

— R.K.



Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the May 8, 1996 issue

- In an attempt to balance their 1996 operating budget, the Halton Roman Catholic School Board handed out pink slips to 47 board employees and cut the hours of 12 others. The board also announced it would not be filling the 16 elementary school positions it otherwise would have to accommodate growth. The staff reductions were expected to save the board \$1.3 million. The budget vote was not unanimous, however, as three trustees voted against it.

- The Taxpayers Coalition Burlington, a 300-member watchdog organization, was threatening to go to court to prove that some Halton public school trustees had a conflict of interest when they voted on the board's new budget. They claimed that five board trustees had some form of relationship with a person employed by the Halton board or a neighbouring board. In their eyes this constituted a conflict of interest. "We have nothing against these people personally," said Frank Gue, spokesman for the coalition. "We want to see the individuals do the right thing and resign."

20 Years Ago

From the May 11, 1977 issue

- Liberal leader Stuart Smith took a ride with Halton-Burlington candidate Julian Reed aboard the Oakville GO train. On their campaigning ride, the two Liberals talked to

commuters about the state of GO Transit and the federal government's cutback of funds they promised to use to extend the line to Milton.

- William A. Johnson, the NDP candidate for Halton-Burlington, was fearing he might have to write "unemployed" as his occupation description when he filled out his nomination papers for the provincial election. As it turned out, Mr. Johnson worked at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters in Burlington and as a civil servant was not permitted to participate in provincial politics. "I am on very thin ice," commented the NDP candidate.

50 Years Ago

From the May 8, 1947 issue

- Mr. B. R. McKerr of Milton was elected to fill the role of president of the Lorne Scots Band for the coming year. The Lorne Scots had had a very successful year of performances with more than 30 engagements and a first place prize at the Waterloo Band Festival.

- The fishing season was starting again as Game Warden Dudley Hitchcox was busy stocking Halton's streams with 3,600 trout. Members of the newly formed Halton Anglers and Hunters Association were instrumental in aiding Mr. Hitchcox with the fish stocking.

- The John Milton Chapter IODE received first prize for the scrapbook it submitted to a provincial competition. Mrs. E. B. Clements was to be credited with the honour. It was her clippings and artistic embellishment that garnered the prize.

Pud

by Steve Nease

