



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Town's clean-up attitude stinks

Dear Editor:

This letter is regarding 'Please clean up your act' in the June 13 issue.

My re-location to Milton, specifically downtown, after seeking a small town atmosphere was positive for me. Therefore, I feel obliged to comment.

I perceived the cavalier attitude by the Town hierarchy regarding the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area's concerns as a somewhat confrontational approach.

It comprised an abject negative regardless of the merits of each party since discussion and direction is required as the greater picture is the continued viability of the area — which is advantageous to all town residents.

The town stance regarding lack of funds seems difficult to comprehend. Recently money was allocated to adjust a park and road name as an exercise in vanity, while a situation affecting the town's business area goes seemingly under-funded and side-lined.

Priorities?

Peter Towneley Crompton
Milton

There's no place like home

Dear Editor:

Having immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1969 and having lived in many different towns and provinces in Canada, we have experienced some fortune and some misfortune.

Misfortune we try to forget, however, fortune we hold onto and treasure, like the day we moved to Milton.

Milton has character, a welcome mat for young families to bring up their children in a safe and caring community, and a wealth of social activities that are nurtured year in and year out by Miltonian spirit.

Being so fortunate to find such a place, why would anyone ever think of moving? Again misfortune decrees — down-sizing, cut backs, takeovers and job transfers. So it's off to beautiful British Columbia.

The one thing that we could cling onto was our connections to Milton. How could exiled Miltonians keep up with the weddings, births, deaths of loved ones, local heroes in sports and Merchant scores.

Easy, The Champion. For every visitor heading this way, clear instructions — don't forget to get as many Champions as you can to bring back to BC.

You see, you don't know what you've got until it's gone. Well Milton, it was six long years until we came home and The Champion helped us through those times. It's nice to be back and see that familiar front page sticking out of the letterbox.

The Champion is a major part of the character of Milton, the link between all events happy and sad, an award-winning newspaper and recorder of Milton society and Milton history.

Don't wait until it's gone before you know what you had and how little it would have cost you to keep it going.

The Champion is well worth the subscription.

Ben and Helen Hall
Milton

Pensions go beyond dollars

Dear Editor:

How can you be a loser and still be a winner? Simple. Get elected to the House of Commons and hang around long enough to qualify for the gold-plated MP pension plan.

This super-rich pension not only takes the sting out of defeat but it turns losing an election into winning a lottery. If this sounds too strange to believe, just consider eight MPs who had qualified for the pension and who lost their seats on June 2.

We estimate their lifetime pension payouts will amount to an incredible \$13 million.

The biggest loser — or is that winner? — is former Liberal MP David Dingwall, Atlantic Canada's minister of pork. We calculate that he will collect about \$3.6 million in pension payouts if he lives to age 75.

It's outrageous and not just because of the cost to taxpayers. This matter goes beyond just dollars and cents.

The issue is leadership. How can Liberal MPs hammer Canadians with a massive increase in Canada Pension Plan taxes when they are unwilling to reform their own super-rich pension plan?

Taxpayers deserve leaders who lead by example. The new Chretien government should move quickly to bring this fat pension plan into line with private sector pensions.

David Sommerville, president
National Citizens' Coalition

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