



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Where's the leadership?

The two candidates for mayor outline some of their positions in today's paper and in his interview, we are treated to vintage Gord Krantz.

It has been said that Mr. Krantz could wear a white linen suit to a volcanic eruption and come back without a speck of dirt on him, so adept is he at dodging trouble.

He has moved to blunt what should be one of the more controversial issues of the municipal election campaign — the fire truck controversy, by downplaying it, and subtly saddling municipal staff with any blame that may arise.

In this manner he protects his contingent of allies on municipal council from any culpability in the matter, and makes Fire Chief Harold Penson the fall guy.

According to Mr. Krantz the idea of replacing fire trucks was discarded during what amounted to preliminary budget discussions with municipal department heads, thus never even reaching councillors.

"The fire chief suggested perhaps he wasn't quite strong enough in voicing the department's truck requirements," Mr. Krantz notes.

Then he dismisses the controversy with, "If that's the biggest and only issue in town then things are going quite well."

Perhaps, but is it really fair to indicate that the fire truck episode is not much more than a tempest in a teapot? Especially when one of the main campaign themes is to be leadership?

How many other jurisdictions have seen two fire trucks break down on the way to the same call? How many other municipalities have, in a knee-jerk reaction, opted to spend more than \$500,000 in an emergency purchase to replace such vehicles?

A real leader takes his or her lumps when they are due. What Mr. Krantz should have said was that council is ultimately responsible for what happens at the Corporation of the Town of Milton, and that council and the mayor are ultimately responsible for the fire truck fiasco.

And Mr. Krantz should have said that although council dropped the ball, when it became apparent how serious the problem was, they moved quickly to address it.

Instead, we have Harold Penson being pushed gently so that he falls on his sword.

Colin Best has said little about the fire truck controversy, but remember, he was on council too, and council's job is to know if the municipal fire truck fleet is held together with strings and chewing gum.

We're hearing a lot about leadership from these two gentlemen already, and we're going to hear a lot more. Talking about it is easy. Performing as a leader isn't. And it sure won't always make one popular.

If these two are going to make leadership the central theme of this campaign, each judging the other to be wanting, let the voters play close attention. They may both be found deficient in the trait, in which case it will be a choice between the brightest of two lesser lights.

Rob Kelly



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Cover story nothing but trash

Dear Editor:

Can we assume from the 30 odd paragraphs of absolute trash in Friday's cover story that neither our local newspaper nor "thoroughly frustrated" Ward 3 Councillor Marion Howard would have us elect anyone who was named in this libelous article?

Perhaps we the voting public are to discern for ourselves those who were fortunate to have not been named and cast our votes in their direction.

We have been friends for many years, Marion, and I am sorry to say that by belittling so many you have only belittled yourself. What a shame.

I for one will be voting for those candidates who professionally represent the best interests of our community in a positive way.

It is really too bad that we are stuck with a community newspaper that itself gets "acclaimed." This type of press would surely cost them the majority of votes.

Jeff Sales
Milton

Real issue sugar-coated

Dear Editor:

If this letter could be titled, I would title it, 'Concern over lack of professionalism shown by a Canadian Champion writer'.

With regard to the October 7 article, 'Howard thought

about running for mayor's job', this is not even the real issue (although you would never know it by the title).

The real issue at hand is the long awaited, badly needed purchase of two new fire trucks for the Town. The older trucks had been breaking down before, on the way to and during fire calls. The chief has admitted that he should have been pushing for new vehicles long before now.

This is the real issue. Steve LeBlanc shows a lack of writer professionalism by choosing to report on Ms Howard's decision (or lack thereof) regarding her running for the mayor's position and the obviously unrelated comments regarding her personal life.

The issue at hand was the Town's lack of responsibility despite Ms Howard's efforts relating to this emergency upgrade. Mr. LeBlanc seems to be attempting to sugar-coat the lack of attention paid by the Town to the public safety issue.

In his effort to do so, he manipulated Ms Howard's words, created a title and presented a completely unrelated issue to this article. It is important that the citizens of Milton know how their Town chooses to use money and if how they choose to do so puts us at risk.

I am no longer certain that the reporters for The Champion can give us the proper, no-nonsense, professionally-reported information.

If Ms Howard's decision regarding the mayor's position ever becomes a real issue, I would have to say that she would be perfect for the job.

• see OUR READERS WRITE on page 7

Pud

by Steve Nease

