



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Much ado about very little

Milton councillors are fretting about how, and if, they should compensate for the fact that their one-third tax free allowance is apparently disappearing.

It's really much ado about very little.

Councillors make something less than \$15,000 per year at present. Granted, one-third of that has been tax free but it is still far from a princely sum.

There's really very little point in forming some sort of citizen's committee to look at what councillors are paid, with the intent of putting together a new, fairer compensation plan.

The fact is, the job doesn't pay very much, period.

So there isn't much sense in quibbling over peanuts.

If councillors want to raise their pay to recover whatever is lost because the one-third tax free allowance on their cheques is disappearing, it is not a big deal.

Each and every representative on Milton council should be worth at least that much.

The troublesome question is, are they all worth it?

People who are anxious to sit on a committee that could end up evaluating council pay may wish to make some sort of statement about that through their compensation recommendations.

But in truth the judgement should be made at the ballot box. If they're not pulling their weight, kick them out. Meanwhile don't nickel and dime them.



OUR READERS WRITE

The VON was there for me

Dear Editor:

I wish to thank the Halton branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) for the intellectual and emotional support I have received from them during the past few years.

I watched both my parents become gradually consumed by the symptoms of dementia, eventually losing both physical and mental capacities. However, I was fortunate enough to have the assistance of VON Alzheimer Services to help me through this. Their extensive resource centre and the comprehensive information series provided me with the

necessary knowledge to understand and deal with the complexities surrounding this disease.

Their support group meetings gave me the opportunity to spend time on a regular basis with others who were experiencing similar issues and emotions.

Though both my parents are now deceased and this chapter of my life has ended, I will remain forever grateful to the Halton VON and their outstanding team of staff and volunteers, who have been so caring and supportive.

Gail Czerwinski
Milton

More to it than meets the eye says this local citizen activist

Dear Editor:

Unless different messages are assigned to different groups the suggestion that there is not a method to maintain current Milton residents' usage of unblended well water is contrary to previous statements made by Halton Region.

In looking for the cheapest manner of starting phase one of development the Region, with cooperation from the Town of Milton, has co-opted excess capacity in Milton to the extent that a change in plans to unblended water would now mean an expensive reservoir estimated at \$14 million would have to be built.

Unfortunately many Milton residents were of the mistaken belief that unblended water was always an objective, whereas the more cynical of us realized this idea never made it passed the lip service stage.

This reservoir will have to be built for phase two development, meaning the money will have to be spent eventually, but new development and hence new residents are supposed to pay for that through development charges.

Phase one development will be subsidized out of the 'quality of life' account of existing residents, adding to the growing list of bills paid for by current residents to front development despite the promises of regional

and municipal councillors that growth will pay for itself.

While Halton's medical officer, Dr. Bob Nosal, follows provincial guidelines stating all Halton drinking water is safe, the standards being used would not be acceptable in many European or U.S. jurisdictions, particularly now with his insistence on chlorinating our well water.

Unfortunately growth has a price and while many never believed the 'no cost' to existing residents nonsense most expect to see some significant quality benefits, other than those received by local purveyors of bottled water.

Editor Rob Kelly may be correct that it's a "nice effort, too late" regarding Carol Gustafson's appeal to the Region regarding blended water but this is only one of many issues developing regarding the changes in quality and cost to Miltonians as the bulldozers move in this year.

Let's hope our wake-up call isn't a version of Toronto's last year, when residents awoke to smelly, discoloured Lake Ontario drinking water deemed perfectly safe by their public health department.

Patrick Kelly
Milton Ratepayers Association.



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Pud

by Steve Nease

