



# COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Policy shift wrong move

Municipal council is just muddying the waters by contemplating a change to purchasing policies. What has been in effect until now has worked well, as evidenced by the savings produced.

According to a recent report, collectively Halton's four municipalities have saved \$222,900 on 38 contracts in 1998 alone, thanks to chasing down the lowest bid without regard to point of origin.

Milton saved \$15,000 on \$955,000 spread over 26 contracts.

Councillor Rick Malboeuf, it would appear, wants to revisit this policy with a view to perhaps changing it on smaller contracts. For lesser amounts, he would like to look at favouring local bidders.

The trouble is, where do you draw a line in the sand? And how do you avoid crossing it when, in essence, you have one policy for smaller amounts of money and another, in direct conflict, for larger sums?

Clearly, substantial local pressure would evolve to keep raising the benchmark as to what constitutes local purchasing.

Could municipal council resist that type of pressure? Why bother creating the environment for it to flourish in the first place?

Right now the policy is crystal clear. Eleven core members, including the four Halton municipalities, have banded together as volume purchasers. They buy in bulk at all levels, and they get the lowest price possible, period. That serves the interests of taxpayers as a whole in Milton most efficiently.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Crown and police acted promptly with new information in Sheppard murder: O'Marra

Dear Editor:

This letter is regarding the murder of Fred Sheppard.

Further to a letter to the editor recently published in the Champion. There is an important factual aspect of this matter that was inaccurately expressed.

Specifically, the letter expressed concerns as to why it has taken so long to investigate the new information. Neither the Crown nor police had knowledge of Roy Hopkins or his claim until March 18, 1999.

Upon being informed, I immediately

took steps to inform counsel for Keith Madeley and the police to have the matter investigated and disclosed.

As a result, the OPP, under the direction of Insp. Don Birrell, are investigating the matter.

The public can be assured that the Crown and police acted promptly on the new information.

I appreciate the opportunity to set the record straight on this matter.

Brian P. O'Marra  
Halton Crown attorney

### Let's not add to town's parking problems; planning key in new subdivisions: reader

Dear Editor:

This letter is regarding parking and snow removal.

Over this past winter, there was a lot of noise about the streets not being plowed properly, especially those streets with cars parked along the sides.

Shortly afterward, the town took steps to ensure that this problem would be reduced in the future by enforcing parking by-laws. Ticket those cars off the street.

But the root cause was not addressed, that being the lack of parking space in people's driveways, especially in the townhouse complexes and apartments around town.

First of all, it must be acknowledged that very few people use their garages for parking of a car. Most are storage sheds for bikes, lawn mowers, and for the lucky ones of the past winter -- snow blowers.

Look at your own street. How many people actually use the garage to park their car in everyday? Thus, in the calculations of parking spaces that developers use, garages can not be included, only driveway space.

Secondly, one must acknowledge that you need a car to get around this town, lending to the fact that very few families in town have only one car.

I believe it would be safe to say most families have at least two, and those with teenagers probably have three or more trying to squeeze into the driveway. The townhouse complexes are even in worse condition for

space in the driveways.

These two items are what has led to the existing situation with cars consistently parking on the street or in school lots overnight. This gets to be even more of a problem when you add into this mix the occasional overnight visitors with their own car.

The Town now has the opportunity to ensure that the new subdivisions do not continue adding to this problem.

When the subdivision plan comes to the Town for approval, ensure there is parking for at least two vehicles in the driveways. Don't count the garages in the parking space calculations while at the same time ensure the sidewalks remain clear.

Maybe a better number might be parking three cars in the driveway.

Mel Walker  
Milton



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## Pud

by Steve Nease

