



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Make a decision, please

Gridlock seems to be a characteristic of the debate among municipal councillors when the subject at hand is Milton's public transit.

Councillors hummed and hawed again the other night, fretting over what to do with a system that is under-used, but no doubt invaluable to a minority of residents.

It's an axiom in business that almost any decision is better than no decision at all. Councillors would do well to remember that.

Some representatives, such as Wally Hunter, strongly believe the system needs an overhaul with a view to paring operations down..

Others seem uncertain if his view is ill-timed.

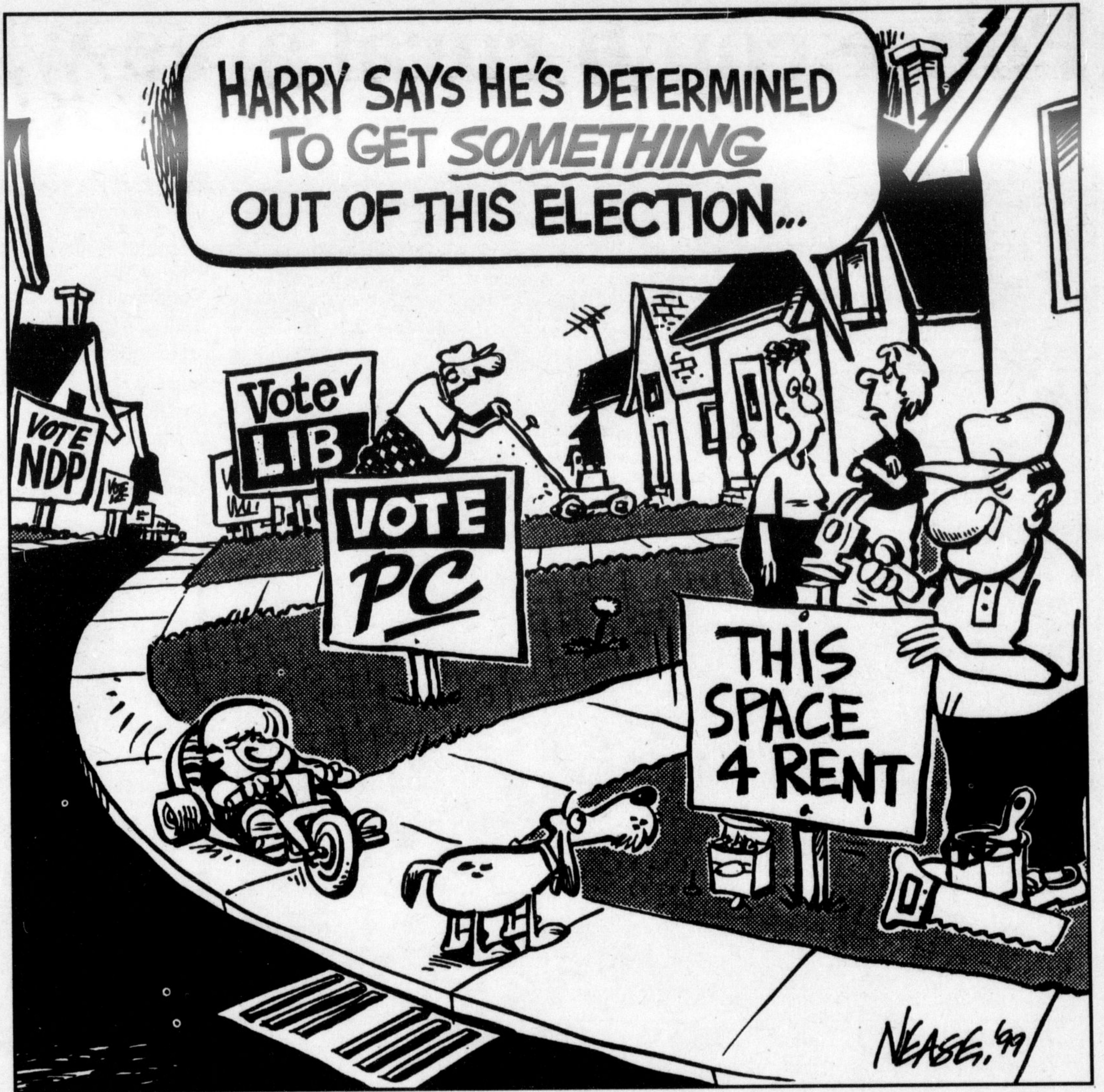
But isn't time running out in terms of realizing any meaningful cost savings?

In a few years Milton will begin growing substantially and it will probably be politically impossible to reorganize transit, to say nothing of impractical due to the demands of a swelling population.

Yet at present there seems to be an opportunity to realize some savings, since the system is clearly under-utilized.

Council has talked about this again and again and now Town CAO Mario Belvedere seems to be advocating hiring some expert, probably on contract, to tell council what to do.

Is that really necessary? Can't they decide for themselves, soon?



OUR READERS WRITE

Please save E.C. Drury park, Mr. Harris

(The following letter was sent to Premier Mike Harris, and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

I write to you on behalf of many frustrated Milton residents. We urgently need your help to resolve a problem with the proposed sale and redevelopment of lands currently owned by the Province behind E.C. Drury High School and school for the deaf. MPP Ted Chudleigh has been unable or unwilling to help his constituents. He's not forthcoming or helpful.

Some background: E.C. Drury and associated buildings were constructed in the 1960s by the Province as a showcase edu-

cational institute. It continues to function as such and is an important symbol of the government's commitment to deaf, special needs and able students in a fully-integrated community.

The school occupies about two thirds of the property, which is zoned institutional according to the Milton Official Plan. Students and Milton residents have used the remaining third of the property as educational, sport and recreational parkland.

The schoolyard contains a centennial forest planted by deaf students in 1967, playing fields and a waterfowl pond. This land is in the middle of urban Milton and is the largest open space in the town.

The Province has declared these 35 acres surplus. In order to get top return on the sale, the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) has actively encouraged intensive development proposals, despite its historic use as an urban park for 30 years. H.D. Investments has proposed the construction of 194-home condominium subdivision and a 250-bed nursing home.

The nursing home is an acceptable, non-intensive use for part of the property, if servicing issues can be settled. The 194-home subdivision requires an amendment to the Town of Milton Official Plan, as well as rezoning. The subdivision is not in keeping with the character of our neighbourhood and the traditional parkland use of the property.

The developer is pursuing the proposed amendment with great vigor, with the underlying support of the Province. The plan amendment and rezoning issues come before a meeting of Milton's administration and planning committee on May 26.

The land was offered for sale to the Town of Milton in July, 1998. The price was beyond the town's means. According

• see NO NEED on page 7

Birthright not neutral

Dear Editor:

This letter is in regard to the recent article highlighting the services of Birthright in Milton (April 30).

The article tries to paint the picture that Birthright is neutral on the 'pro-life vs pro-choice' issue. This is simply not the case.

When I was a teenager in the '80s, I was involved with the so-called pro-life movement. It was common knowledge that Birthright is on the anti-choice side of the debate. They simply will not assist women who want/need to have an abortion. They refuse to refer women to abortion providers, offer no medically-accurate information on abortion, and claim to know of no where you can get this information — not terribly helpful or neutral behaviour.

So, only if you're 100 per cent sure that you want to give birth, Birthright may be of some assistance.

Lisa Jeffs
Acton

(Editor's note: We disagree that the article paints the picture that Birthright is neutral on the 'pro-life vs pro-choice' issue. It states that the organization's philosophy is every pregnant woman has the right to give birth and it's the right of every child to be born, and that Birthright was formed to assist those who want to carry their pregnancies to term. With that, it goes on to clarify that if a woman does choose to have an abortion, her feelings are respected and Birthright doesn't pressure her to change her mind.)



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Pud

by Steve Nease

