



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Prompt action required in election foul-up

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

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my grave concern for the widely-reported problems with the process in the June 3 provincial election.

The right to vote is the most fundamental of our democratic rights, and I am given the impression that this right has been seriously jeopardized for many Ontario citizens.

My understanding is that the following problems occurred:

- several polling stations were delayed in opening
- a number of election workers (poll clerks, I believe) neglected their duties by not showing up as required
- threats were made to election workers; they were told not to show up for their assigned duties on June 3
- at a number of stations, voters list and/or ballots were late arriving or inadequate in supply
- election results were announced to the public prior to the close of several polls
- glaring errors existed in the official voters list, in the form of mass numbers of omissions of names of eligible voters
- long delays and line-ups existed as a result of lengthy voter registration processes, which was in turn a result of the problems listed above.

These last two points are the ones which concern me most. I would very much appreciate your comments on this election process, one which the media has dubbed a "disaster." Please be sure to comment on the above points, and on the follow-

Town should stand up for its senior citizens

Dear Editor:

I was dismayed to read in the Friday, June 11 edition of The Champion about the Town's administration and planning committee veto of the re-zoning of land for a proposed development of seniors' housing on land located behind E.C. Drury High School.

This land isn't designated as parkland but is zoned for jails, group homes and nursing homes, according to what I read in The Champion.

Some residents of the surrounding area object to rezoning the area on the grounds that they want it for park.

However, in addition to it not being a designated park, they did not offer to purchase the land when it was for sale. Others state that they want tress planted by students to remain there.

What are these residents teaching our young people? Might is right? If on the other hand the residents were to support the zoning change, our young people might learn consideration for others, kindness, generosity, respect and many other valuable lessons.

The year of 1999 has been declared as the International Year of the Older Person. An opportunity has been given to council to make a contribution by agreeing to rezone the area.

I hope this opportunity to

ing:

- the accuracy of my understanding of the problems experienced, as listed above
- what caused these problems to occur
- who or what government agency was responsible for the causes of these problems, and who or what government agency is responsible for rectifying these problems during the June 3 election and in the future
- what actions will be taken to ensure that these problems do not occur in the future and that the confidence of the Ontario people in the election system is restored.

I understand that Ontario's Chief Election Officer has attributed many of these problems to the recent changes made to the Ontario election process, and the short amount of preparation time given.

As I see it, he refers to the changes made by the Progressive Conservative government — changes made with the goal of decreasing the cost of the election process in Ontario.

This suggestion enrages me. We cannot put a price tag on democracy, and I will not accept a system where citizens' votes are sacrificed for financial savings.

I look forward to your comments on this issue, and to prompt action on the subject.

Robert Grimwood
Milton

Growth far from a demon

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter to the editor from M. Coulter on June 22.

M. Coulter expressed concern about the proposed residential and industrial/commercial development in Milton that is occurring as part of the Halton Urban Structure Plan (HUSP), indicating a

help alleviate the great need for 'geared-to-seniors housing' will not be lost by the Town administrators and planners by giving in people demanding a right to something to which they're not in fact entitled.

Perhaps the people making this demand might prefer the land to be used for a jail, as it is zoned for one — satellite Maplehurst perhaps.

Kathleen (Kitty) L. Boyd
Milton

Parking spaces for handicapped needed in core

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to Tracy Bunville's letter, 'This Blue Zone unfair to others'.

Oh I am so sorry that anyone has to walk three car lengths to their favourite store on Main Street or anywhere else.

Well, it's about time we had more parking spaces for the handicapped in Milton on Main Street and elsewhere. I for one would vote for them. As for giving parking tickets for anyone who parks in them without the proper sticker, why not?

I have been trying to get around Milton for the last eight months after loosing my leg, and let me tell you, it isn't easy with so few spaces for the handicapped and the idiots who park in them when they can walk very easily.

Please don't tell me it's unfair to others.

Tony K. Durrant
Milton

strong element of surprise that Milton's population might be growing.

Residents of our community appear to truly recognize the benefits of a quiet friendly Milton and to not want their town to become another Mississauga.

Reality is that growth is happening in the GTA and the demand for new residential dwellings is up. Where are the people going to live? Mississauga is already bursting at our boundary. What's the alternative to a planned expansion of Milton? Do we really want to wait until the government allows Mississauga to annex the undeveloped part of Milton, and be railroaded into a Mississauga-like cramped-yet-sprawling development scenario?

The Region has been working on an expansion plan for the past several years (over 15 years here in Milton, where sewage treatment capacity has limited our growth). The plan involves a careful balance between residential development and industrial/commercial development that are needed to provide employment and economic stability for the growing town.

The planning process is an open one, and public meetings are held regularly. I fail to see how someone who reads the newspaper could miss the public announcements that appear in The Champion on a regular basis (usually as a prominent ad in the lower corner of one of the pages). I have attended several of these meetings myself, and have always found them to be informative and interactive.

I hope that M. Coulter will come to the next HUSP meeting and voice the concerns expressed in that June 22 letter. I'm confident that M. Coulter will leave the meeting feeling much better about the future of Milton.

Tara Bonin
Milton

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