



OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 878-4943

Advertising Fax: 876-2364

Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver *Publisher*

Neil Oliver *Associate Publisher*

Bill Begin *General Manager*

Rob Kelly *Editor*

Steve Crozier *Circulation Manager*

Teri Casas *Office Manager*

Tim Coles *Production Manager*

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax / Pickering News Advertiser; Alliston Herald/Courier; Barrie Advance; Brampton Guardian; Burlington Post; City Parent; Collingwood / Wasaga Connection; East York Mirror; Etobicoke Guardian; Georgetown Independent/ Acton Free Press; Kingston This Week; Lindsay This Week; Markham Economist & Sun; Midland / Penetanguishene Mirror; Mississauga News; Newmarket / Aurora Era Banner; Northumberland News; North York Mirror; Oakville Beaver; Orillia Today; Oshawa / Whitby / Clarington / Port Perry This Week; Peterborough This Week; Richmond Hill / Thornhill / Vaughan Liberal; Scarborough Mirror; Uxbridge / Stouffville Tribune; Today's Seniors.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

Councillors way offside

It was a cross between a Vaudeville skit and an Orwellian nightmare at Milton council recently.

The subject under discussion was a proposed development for park-like lands surrounding the back of the E.C. Drury school complex.

The result was confusion that would have been humorous if it hadn't involved dispensing with democracy, for all intents and purposes, in a cavalier fashion.

The manner in which some councillors acted was questionable at best, rude and dictatorial at worst.

Councillors voted on the issue prior to hearing delegations, then debated before the concerned citizens in the gallery whether the taxpayers were worthy of being heard from at all.

Granted, the question of developing the property, which is highly controversial, has been explored on several occasions publicly.

But that doesn't mean one can simply dispense with the normal protocols established for citizens to be heard in front of elected officials.

Councillor Rick Day had every right to be taken aback when this ridiculous exercise took place. He recounted that he had never seen anything like it in more than two decades of elected service with municipal government.

Council is re-opening the issue due to re-interpretations of parliamentary procedure. That still doesn't excuse the way citizens were treated.

This may be how things are done in some Third World dictatorships, but it's not supposed to happen like that here.

Rob Kelly



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Teens made a big mess of Moonlight Magic

Dear Editor:

On Friday, June 18, the night of the 'Moonlight Madness', I had decided to go downtown with some friends for some fun.

I was really disappointed.

The immaturity of a lot of the teenaged kids absolutely disgusted me.

I only stayed for 15 minutes at the most and left.

From what I could see I don't

think there were enough police officers around to enforce anything.

There were so many teenagers running around spraying shaving cream and making a big mess.

I even saw the mess in some of the stores.

The next day I was driving downtown and I happened to notice that a lot of the garbage from the night before hadn't been

cleaned up.

I was born and raised in this town and as a young adult male at age 21, I'm embarrassed with what this town has become.

It will be a very long time before I participate in any town event again.

David J. Hoch
Milton

That radio scan button is one great invention

If I had to pick the greatest invention of the 20th century, I'd probably go with the scan button on car radios.

It's like a buffet for your ears. You get a little bit of everything and if something catches your fancy, you can have more of it. That's kind of the way we'd like to have everything in life.

Unless you're a teenager and just got your licence, driving can be incredibly tedious. We need things to amuse ourselves. At least I do. I've spent a lifetime trying to cope with it.

Scenic drives are nice, but I don't get to the Rockies all that often, and besides that, it's tough to see much when it's dark.

I used to play a lot of car games as a kid, and when my kids were smaller. I still do, if somebody young is in the car. I always thought the games were a pretty good teaching tool.

One I used to play was seeing who could spot the next letter of the alphabet, from A to Z, in proper order, off of cars or signs.

My ex-wife's daughter Kalyn wants to play a game as soon as I start up the engine. We often play the 'Finding Game' where you get a point for spotting certain things first. For example, you get a point for finding a bird on a wire, or a point for a bus or a cow or something. I'm pretty sure she cheats, because I always lose.

But games aren't that fun when you're playing by yourself, although it's nice to win for a change. That's where the radio and cassette player come in.

Morning show people are never funny. They're usually just loud and obnoxious and laugh hysterically at their own jokes. That's probably the best time for the scan button.

If it's the music you want, it all depends on your mood. Soft music is good when you're in a reflective, mellow mood. Rock music is appropriate when you're in a pumped-up mood and excited about something. I listen to dance music when somebody else is controlling the radio. Country music is for when you're feeling low about something, and if you listen to rap music, you've pretty much lost your mind.

Use the scan button, and you're not in any particular mood at all.

If you're in the mood to learn, then you listen to talk radio, but eventually it will annoy you and the scan button takes over.

When I know I have to make a lot of repetitive car trips by myself, I prepare. You can get novels on tape from the library, and they're perfect for passing the time. You can't have too much on your mind, though, because then you miss what's going on and have to rewind.



On the loose

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

Sometimes I get other tapes because I want to learn about something that I wouldn't necessarily have time for. Learning a new language would be interesting, but I have little use for it because I never go anywhere and always hated French in school.

And I keep meaning to listen to these memory enhancing tapes, but I keep forgetting them. That's not even meant to be a joke, although on a morning radio show that's worth 15 minutes of uncontrollable giggles.

Currently, I'm big on the Tragically Hip. I've got about seven of their tapes and I think they're the greatest. About 80 percent of their songs are great to listen to, which is about 50 percent more than anyone else, except maybe Blue Rodeo.

The problem is you have to play it loud for it

to sound good, so if somebody else is in the car, 'The Hip' are not an option.

Besides that, my youngest daughter absolutely hates them, and tries to hide the tapes if she gets in the car first.

And then she threatens to throw the tapes out the window. She just takes over the radio as if it's her car or something.

It drives me nuts. Don't tell her I said so, but listening to her whine is a lot worse than listening to whatever it is she wants.

Hey, I've had just about enough of Ricky Martin. After 500 times, I tend to get sick of a song.

She even likes Billy music. That's slow, weird classical stuff, to which she adds her own narration, making it seem overly dramatic, like a soap opera or old movie from the 1930s.

"Ohhhhhh Billy, why did you have to leave me?"

Eventually, I get tired of whatever it is that currently amuses me in the car, and move on to something else. The Hip will meet their doom pretty soon, but I'm not too worried about it.

There's always the scan button and I never ever get tired of that.