



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

The 'Big Pipe' is on its way -- are we ready?

Word that construction of the 'Big Pipe' is set to begin represents a step closer to changing the face of Milton as we know it.

As water services for both residential and commercial development have been a long-time coming, the issue of growth has and continues to be controversial.

Some citizens anxious for change can't wait for the area to grow, while others eager to protect Milton's small-town flavour want no part of it.

There's no doubt development will have both positive and negative impacts on our community.

On the positive side, the local economy should boom, putting more money into the pockets of small business operators, larger industry and government. Development will create employment and ultimately complement the standard of living for many.

But we also know an increased population brings more crime and puts higher demands on our existing health care and social services. A story elsewhere in this newspaper outlines the traffic implications alone.

Nevertheless, reality dictates that growth is imminent. Are we ready for it? Let's ensure all the necessary preparations are in place as much as possible now so we don't have to try to catch up later.

Karen Smith



OUR READERS WRITE

Bateman speaks out on NE development

(The following letter was addressed to Mayor Gord Krantz and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

During the 10 years I served as a Niagara Escarpment commissioner, I tried to keep my eye on the ball concerning what we should be doing.

This ribbon of beauty and charm -- this fluke of history because of its topography -- was a gift to our generation. The threat was urban and especially suburban development. This was the reason for the formation of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

It was clear then and even more so

now that what we should be doing is preserving the rural and natural character of the landscape.

From every point of view -- aesthetically, socially and environmentally -- suburban developments are inappropriate. All of the virtues embodied in the concept of 'Escarpment Country' are negated by proposals such as the expansion of the Milton Urban Plan.

Everyone who cares about the world heritage treasure of the Niagara Escarpment should strongly oppose this destructive measure.

Robert Bateman
Salt Spring Island, B.C.

Community owes seniors a housing solution

Dear Editor:

Recently the Canadian Champion ran an article regarding a survey being conducted by Gwen Maloney, director of non-profit housing. The survey was to determine the number of working families with low or moderate incomes that are experiencing housing hardships within the region.

The survey I received, however, referred to working families and seniors. I assume they are referring to seniors who have endured recessions, low wages, job losses, poor health and whose income consists of Canada Pension, possible company pension or disability income and who cannot afford ever escalating rents of \$800 to \$1,200 per month just to remain in Milton.

I have problems with this inclusion of seniors with low and moderate income families. The Region has limited funds for this undertaking which suggests the municipality with the greatest need in terms of numbers will determine where

the facility will be located. As Milton has a smaller population, there is a reasonable expectation that it will not be located in Milton and these seniors would be required to relocate.

Housing for low and moderate income working families is fine. But as their income prospects improve they can move out. Seniors on fixed incomes cannot.

Finally, seniors require a different set of criteria with respect to accommodation over working families. They need wheelchair accessibility, walkways free of obstacles, a tolerable noise level, access to shopping and transportation, and, most of all, family physicians.

These are people who have lived in Milton for a considerable time, have made a contribution to this community, and have friends and family here.

We as a community owe it to them to provide a solution that would provide them with peace of mind for their remaining years.

If you are a senior who fits the description I've outlined and you have a suggestion to make or a comment in general, I would like to hear from you.

Graeme Barrow
Milton

Lobster debate boiling over

Dear Editor:

Oh dearie me! I have opened up a hornet's nest, or a lobster's nest if you prefer.

Regarding your latest letter on the lobster debate, Doug Clark and I have crossed swords before, as anyone reading between the lines in his letter would have guessed. He didn't win that one either.

Let's put this issue into perspective, shall we? Eat all the lobsters you want -- but kill them first. Don't hold them then boil them alive.

Anne Taylor
Campbellville



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
Karen Smith Acting 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.

Pud

by Steve Nease

