



OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Residents left thirsty

Water, water everywhere, but nary a drop to drink.

That pretty much puts the plight of some Regional Road 25 residents in perspective.

A group of them attended a recent open house detailing plans for a high-pressure water line running from Lake Ontario to Milton, which literally goes past their front doors.

As Halton continues to urbanize and development crowds rural residents, problems have arisen. In the case of Regional Road 25 dwellers, it's the arrival of the regional landfill site and a golf course.

Both facilities, they argue, have reduced the water table to such an extent that their wells are going dry.

And Hornby residents are upset because the arrival of the pipe will only relieve the drought of some dwellers there.

For its part, Halton Region has taken a pretty hard line, simply saying that the water pressure is too great to pipe into the homes. And in any event, the region's Official Plan doesn't allow any water connections outside the urban area.

We're don't claim to be engineers, but it seems to us that some accommodation can be made to residents who are running out of water.

Certainly there has to be a sensible compromise in this issue.

Give me a lot to work with -- it's really that simple

Hi there sports fans — athletes, parents, coaches, etc.

Just thought I'd take this opportunity to address a few matters relating to local sports coverage.

Miltonians are quite passionate about their sports and, subsequently, have a vested interest in how those sports are reported in their newspaper.

You want the best sports coverage possible, as well you should. But to ensure that — just like ensuring success on the playing field — it takes teamwork.

As recently appointed editor Karen Smith mentioned in her column recently, gathering news stories has a lot to do with community input.

The same goes for the sports scene.

Sure I know about Friday night's Merchants game and how many prominent athletes are faring in their respective fields, but it's just not possible to know about everything going on.

That's where you come in.

If you know of an athlete or team that's done something notable — give me a call. It may be I'm already aware of the matter, but please don't assume that.

Over the years some of the more in-depth and interesting sports stories have been about matters

I would have known nothing about had an athlete or parent figured it was already being covered — or not deemed worthy enough to find its way into the paper.

That's another misconception that hinders sports coverage. Contrary to some people's opinion, we're interested in more than just the high profile sports like hockey and baseball.

In fact, a sport's main stream popularity is just one of three factors to consider when determining whether or not a story should be covered.

The others are how impressive the team or athlete's accomplishment was and how noteworthy or memorable a matter is to the community at large.

The latter can relate to results both positive and negative. Case in point was a ball club's (I'll spare them embarrassment by leaving out their name) 35-1 annihilation a couple of years back.

Certainly this wasn't something the players or coaches wanted to remember, but many sports fans were discussing it afterward. People wanted to know about the game, which in itself makes it deserving of coverage.

Now to those who wish to relay information on an event — please, don't delay. Sports has one very important thing in common with other stories in this and any other paper.

They're news — and like all news, time is of



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Junior kindergarten

Get your house in order first, reader tells trustees

Dear Editor:

Re: JK could be back (Friday, Nov. 26).

I thought recent cutbacks in education budgets made good education in Ontario impossible.

With all the complaints about lack of funding, user fees, projected school closures and disgruntled teachers, where does the money for junior kindergarten originate?

I don't dispute the value of early learning. In a per-

fect world we could afford perfect education, but we're talking about Ontario -- a bilingual, double-funded education system that's stretched to the limit.

That's like saying, "I can't afford to heat the house, but I'd love a brand new couch."

Come on, be realistic. Get your house in order.

Linda Webster
Hwy. 25



with STEVE LeBLANC

In the stands

the essence.

Often people will call me about something that happened up to a month ago. While I'm always appreciative to learn of these matters, reporting on an event that's that old certainly takes away from its impact.

So for example — if you know of a team or athlete that did well on the weekend, tell me about it Monday. I can't guarantee that it'll get in the paper the very next issue, but the sooner it runs the better for everyone.

And if a major event is being held close by or is being televised, please let me know beforehand. I might be able to swing by and cover it firsthand — which helps ensure more detailed accounts and stronger stories.

One last thing on my column agenda relates to minor sports reports — primarily rep hockey.

I've talked to many coaches and parents about this, but hopefully these few suggestions and requests will reach others I haven't spoken with.

Providing detailed accounts of games and tournaments is always more important than worrying about writing style. Many contributors to this part of the sports section have expressed being self-conscious about their writing — and to this I say "Don't even worry about it".

Reports are almost always reworked anyway, so all I really need is the details and the more the better.

Want to send stuff in point form? Go ahead.

Want to call me and relay the information over the phone? No problem.

The best rep reports come when ample details are given. Give me a lot to work with and I'll do a lot with it. It's that simple.

So now that I've crammed all this down your proverbial throats, I hope we can start or continue a good working relationship — striving to make this town's sports coverage as strong as it can be.

Remember, it's a joint effort.

As always, I look forward to working with you.

See you in the stands.