

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Plenty of reasons to deny development

Dear Editor:

Re: The editorial comment that it's "hard to imagine a better deal" (February 4) concerning HD Investments' proposal for a housing development behind E.C. Drury High School.

There are plenty of compelling reasons supporting the outcome of town council's vote and preparing to fight the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for retention of this area of parkland. Many of the issues relate to safety, environmental concerns and quality of life. Numerous good points were presented at the five-hour session, and though I can't quote verbatim or give due credit to the individuals, I would like to reiterate some of the poignant commentaries:

- If you want to retain these lands, send the message to the province, loud and clear, and fight the development.
 - Of course the developer is willing to accept any conditions. Do the math. There is \$39 million at stake.
 - The property is "landlocked" -- it's a forced fit (unable to come up with a reasonable and safe access).
 - The proposed development is considered to be high density and is not compatible with the surrounding neighbourhoods.
 - There are 6,000 homes going in on Milton's east side -- why do they have to have this space behind E.C. Drury?
 - The deaf community considers this land to be their heritage.
- From the developer's side we learned:
- The developer would not disclose the selling price of the homes, trying to convince the audience that he "doesn't know."
 - That the nursing home plans were not shown on the drawings because the area is already zoned institutional and they were not required to show it in the presentation.
 - Halton was identified as "being in need of beds." (Councillor Cindy Lunau enlightened us that these are needed in Burlington and Oakville, not Milton.)

• The position that they are "securing our future."

• That the proposed development would be a condominium format, and therefore subject to condominium fees.

And the most ludicrous argument presented by HD Investments' legal counsel:

• That there is a serious existing danger on Childs Drive that would be remedied by creating a road at that site.

In her report, planning coordinator Anne Bouck referred only to the tennis courts and did not acknowledge this as the social and recreational institution that it actually is. This begs concern about what the real future would be for the Milton Tennis Club if the development proposal were to be accepted.

Mel Lovio explained to us that the planning act allowed any applications to be reviewed. The planning department performed its job in assessing the information and preparing the technical report. Unfortunately the planning department also recommended acceptance of the proposal.

Your headline on page 7 reads, "Council ignores Town staff recommendation." Thankfully, as stated by an audience member at the meeting, "Our town council possesses more wisdom than our town planners."

The viewpoint that a good offer has been lost does not hold merit. Town council made the right choice.

The developer's next option is to apply to the OMB. If the appeal is ruled in favour of the developer and if HD Investments has any integrity at all, it would proceed with the plan that is in the best interest of our community rather than punishing Milton for its decision last week.

We don't accept the defeatist attitude that "this is out best deal."

Regina Devine
Coulson Avenue

Don't forget about who suffers from Casino Mohawk

Dear Editor:

Well, the first cheque is in Milton's Town coffers from Casino Mohawk. It appears that everyone at town hall is thrilled at the new cash cow.

When council starts spending like drunken sailors (they are not going to do that) and starts reducing everyone's tax bill (like that's going to happen) just remember that it's Campbellville and Brookville that have been most inconvenienced by 24-hour traffic and crime, not to mention that property values have probably decreased.

When the dust clears and if there is any money leftover, I remind council that our rural area is part of Milton too.

You did go to great expense by installing traffic signals (a four-way stop would have sufficed) thus stealing some of Campbellville's village charm.

It will be a great day when we get a full-blown casino and eliminate all of Milton's property taxes.

Rick Mitchell
Campbellville

Letters welcome

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included.

Mail letters to: The Canadian Champion, Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, leave them at our office, 191 Main St. E., or fax to 878-4943.

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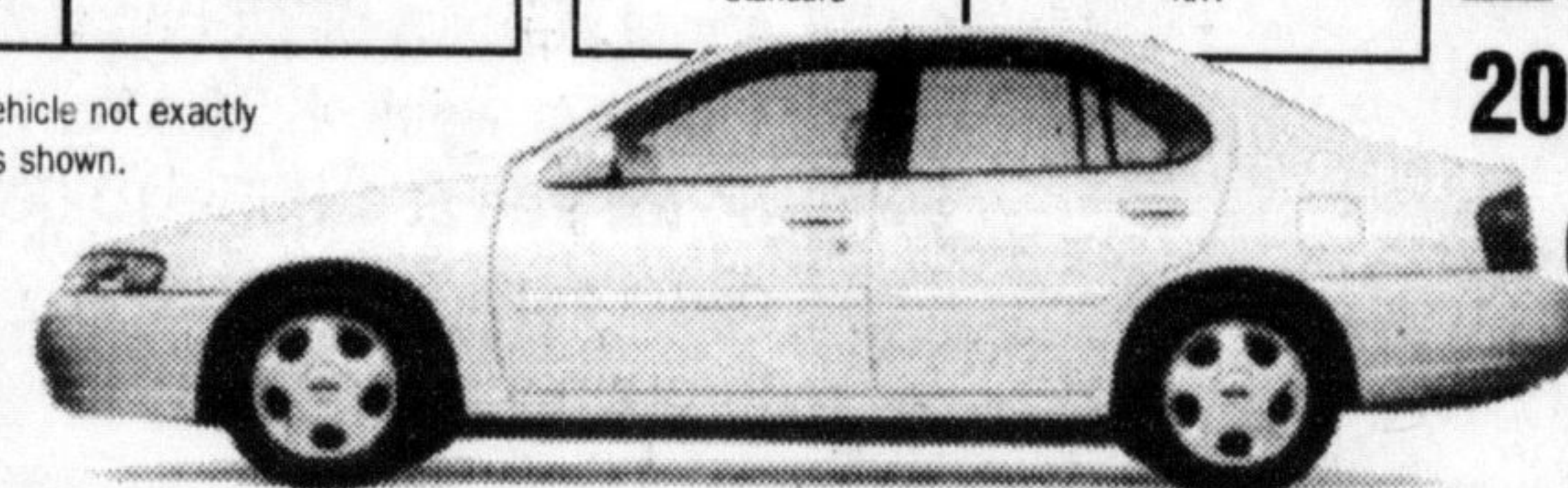
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HORSEPOWER	155-HP	133-HP	150-HP
AM/FM/CD	Standard	Optional	Optional
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY	Standard	Optional	Optional
15" WHEELS	Standard	Smaller	
P205 TIRES	Standard	P195	P195
WOODTONE INTERIOR TRIM	Standard	N/A	N/A
8 WAY ADJUSTABLE DRIVER SEAT	Standard	N/A	N/A
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Vehicle not exactly as shown.



DRIVEN.



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7:00 p.m.

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Thursday, February 24, 2000
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Milton District High School
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