

# \* OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

#### Council should really hire an independent planner

Dear Editor:

If Milton council really wants to protect the E.C. Drury school ground and park, then it must show its resolve by hiring an independent lawyer and planner for the upcoming Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing.

In a slim 5-4 vote on January 31, council turned down a planning staff report that supported the developer. Now, council could opt to send Town staff as our representative at the pending OMB hearing. When they're asked for their 'professional opinion' by the OMB board member, staff will support the developer, just as they did in their report.

In an election year, an astute OMB member might wrongly conclude that council made a politically-motivated planning decision and "caved to the demands of a small but vocal group," as Councillor Rick Malboeuf says.

As for E.C. Drury, it's time to do the right thing. It's time for council to tell the community where it stands on inappropriate development. If they don't fight something as bad as this proposal, then it's clear that the developers and their friends are running the show in Milton, just as they are in most of the rest of the province.

So, Milton council, how about using a few of those Mohawk Raceway slot machine dollars to hire an independent lawyer and planner to go to the OMB?? You can bet that the people of Milton are behind you.

> Christine Myers Childs Drive

#### Please, Mr. Chudleigh, intervene and help us save land

Dear Editor:

We wrote a fairly long letter to Ted Chudleigh on February 18. Here is a condensed version.

We want to bring you an update about the E.C. Drury situation and ask for your assistance at Queen's Park.

Around the time of your victory in the provincial election, you wrote a letter to Mayor Gord Krantz to clarify your position on the development plans for the E.C. Drury lands. You said that you support development of the property if use can be restricted only to senior citizens.

In its current development proposal, HD Investments has removed the nursing home. According to Town planning director Mel Iovio, there is no lawful way to limit occupancy to seniors in the proposed 195-unit condominium.

We also want to advise you that we have filed two Freedom of Information requests with the Ontario government. The first was with the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), the second with the Ministry of Education and Training. Disappointingly, we received less than half the information on file. Despite this, we were able to piece together many of the events leading us to where we are today. It's very clear that the decision by the Province to declare the

property surplus was based on seriouslyflawed advice.

For example, the ORC told the government there were about 100 trees in total. There are more than 3,000 trees. They told the government that the property was advertised for sale for three weeks in the local papers. This is not true. They say there was a proper tender process. We see a fair price. no evidence of that.

One thing is now certain. The develop-

er's proposal doesn't meet the sole condition for development that you outlined so clearly last May.

Given the obviously flawed and unfair process used in this instance, we urge you to intervene and cause the process to be restarted. A fair outcome would be for the ORC to again offer the park to the Town at

> Mel Cutler Friends of E.C. Drury

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Sat. March 4



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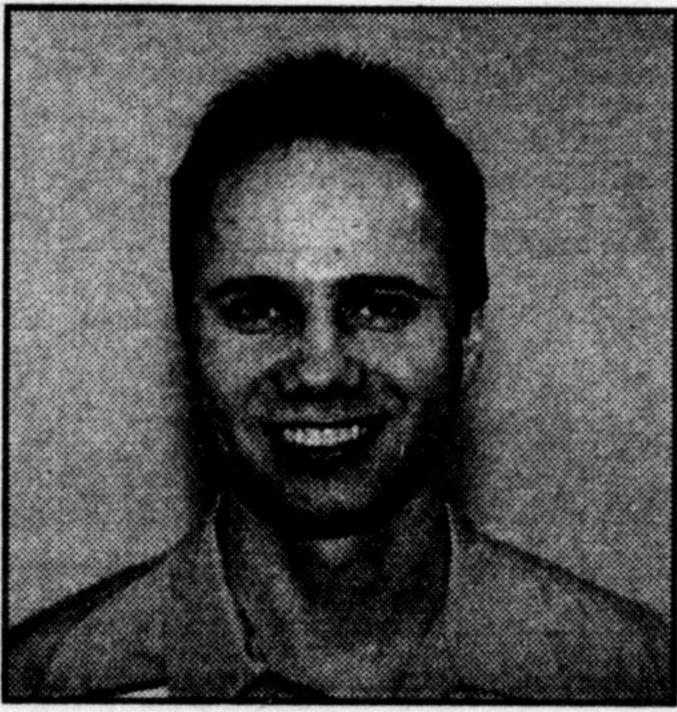
> For more information, please call Gerry Ruberto, BSc., RRCP at 905-629-5773



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MR. MURRAY HOWARD & MR. STEVE THOMPSON HAVE ACHIEVED GRAND MASTER TECHNICIAN STATUS IN THE GENERAL MOTORS OF CANADA TECHNICIANS GUILD. THIS IS AN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVE-MENT AFTER 21 YEARS OF COMBINED LICENCED HISTORY. STEVE HAS ALSO ACHIEVED "ASE" AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE EXCELLENCE (MASTER). MURRAY IS NOW GOING TO THE HANDS-ON COMPETITION "IN 120 ACROSS CANADA" ELIMINATION FOR THE TECHNICIANS GUILD. WE AT WALLACE PONTIAC BUICK CADILLAC ARE VERY PROUD OF STEVE AND MURRAY AND OUR ENTIRE TEAM.



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