



COMMENT

Queen's Park riot hurts, not helps, the homeless

With friends like anti-poverty activist John Clarke, the poor are better off supping with enemies.

Last week's ill-conceived attack on Queen's Park -- during which protesters arrived with masks, bandannas and projectiles to make their point -- sets back any progress made on the poverty front.

Horses, police officers, protesters and reporters were all hurt in the melee, engineered by the 'results-at-any-cost' head of the Ontario Anti-Poverty Coalition.

Mr. Clarke's actions gave more than the odd police officer a black eye. They put a stain on the cause of the very people he represented.

Poverty is a blight that despite the booming economy appears to be increasing across the nation. Milton isn't immune; no place and nobody is.

Despite this, Mr. Clarke and his merry band of anonymous thugs -- who threw bicycles at police horses, for heaven's sake -- can't justify their barbaric behaviour.



OUR READERS WRITE

Where did iron in our water come from?

(The following letter was sent to Greg Ellis, supervisor of North Operations Centre, Water and Wastewater Systems, for Halton Region and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

We're writing to complain about the mud in the water supply June 13.

When we phoned we were told it was because of the heavy rains we have had. Last time this happened we were told that a valve had been left open and because it was the weekend nobody had noticed it.

We have lived in Milton for nearly 30

years. We used to boast that our drinking water in Milton was superior both in clarity and quality to anywhere else, but not any more. When we have questioned the poor colour generally, we have been told that there's more iron in the water, but the colour was clear in the past, so where did the iron come from?

We suspect that our water will get worse when you start pumping in the garbage from the lake. If you cannot control our water now, how will you control it then?

Harry and Frances McCarthy
Parkway Drive

Maybe banners should read 'Quarry Country'

Dear Editor:

I was neither born nor raised in Milton, hence I don't consider myself a true 'local'. However, having been here for the better part of three years, I'm starting to tune in and understand this community.

The advent of a huge surge in development in Milton is apparent everywhere you look and read. Large parcels of lands are being sold and rezoned, protective land acts are being challenged, and an unlimited water supply is creeping into the town's boundaries.

Also evident is a huge public outcry with a fear of over development at the root of its outrage. The fear is that Milton's rural 'small town' feel, natural habitats and conservative efforts will be lost forever due to an over-zealous and reckless development plan. It's my strong opinion that this public outcry has come far too late and for the wrong reasons.

Milton has fallen prey to over-zealous and reckless development

for years, and our regional authorities and councils have done very little to impede this commercial and industrial feast. Milton cherishes its beautiful escarpment. It provides the basis for tourism, recreation, and our small-town characteristics. Everywhere, 'Escarpment Country' banners declare the natural wonders to be discovered within the town's outer-lying areas.

I'm familiar with the escarpment range in Ontario, having hiked the entire Bruce Trail, and I've been able to conclude that Milton's share of the escarpment is the worst abomination of a unique geological feature I have seen.

For instance, the trails along Sixth Line offer some of the best views of an open pit quarry one could ever see. How could we have let so much destruction of natural habitat go unchecked? And even now the property stakes are being driven to enlarge this already massive quarry. Walk further along and you will hit yet another large quar-

ry, continue south to the base of the escarpment along No. 5 Side road and you will see the remains of more quarries. Cross Hwy. 401 to Kelso and in the back end you can't miss another massive hole. Enough is enough!

It's sickening to see such industrial recklessness taking place. Elsewhere in Ontario, if prime lands were under the threat of destruction, they would be bought back and legally conserved for future generations to enjoy.

Perhaps the banners reading 'Escarpment Country' should read 'Quarry Country', and maybe we'll stop kidding ourselves into thinking that this place is special. Perhaps it can be, but the focus of our outcry shouldn't be on the new homes that will bring new residents to Milton. It should be focused on stopping the quarries from destroying a wonderful and rare geological feature -- our escarpment.

Tom Bjelic
Milton



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 Editor
Steve Crozier Circulation Manager
Teri Casas Office Manager
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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, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Burlington Shopping News, City Parent, City of York Guardian, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Forever Young, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Huronia Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga Business Times, Mississauga News, Napanee Guide, Nassagaweya News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune.

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Pud

by Steve Nease

