



COMMENT

Please take extra care now that school's out

As the school year draws to a close for the summer, it's a good time for a safety reminder.

Some separate and private schools finished last week while public schools close this week.

And the kids are likely to be thinking more about summer vacation than safety.

Let's take extra caution when driving in residential areas and sideroads as cyclists, skateboarders and rollerbladers will be out in full force.

Be a little more cautious around playgrounds, soccer fields and ball diamonds.

There's no place for aggressive driving anywhere, especially in residential areas.

At the same time, parents should remind their children to watch out for vehicles and follow the rules of the road, as well as ensure they wear the proper safety equipment.

Using common sense and good judgment, we should all have a safe summer.



OUR READERS WRITE

It looks like the mains should be replaced

(The following letter was sent to Haton MPP Ted Chudleigh and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

After a major water main burst at the junction of Bronte and Main streets about 18 months ago, the Region said the dirty water the town had through its mains was because the system was old and needed replacing. As this was not possible, all the old iron water mains would be cleaned.

Since that time we have had periods of dirty drinking water. In March, the Region told us that after April 2000,

there would be no more problems. But the problem arose again June 13 and 14.

I'm a senior in my eighties and I have no means of getting gallons of bottled water from the supermarket as was suggested by a member of local government at one time.

When I take my medication with a glass of drinking water, I sometimes wonder if I shall need the next dose.

It can clearly be seen that we will have muddy drinking water until the mains are replaced.

Rodney T. Ramsden
Ontario Street South

Casino funds could equal Milton tax relief

Dear Editor:

The Town of Milton received \$2.5 million of casino revenue in 1999 and expects \$6.5 million in 2000 and thereafter. By the end of 2000, Milton will have accumulated \$9 million, which exceeds the \$8.8 million in taxes collected for the Town of Milton in 2000.

Council could use these funds to rebate 2000 taxes or avoid 2001 taxes -- either way, about \$600 to each taxpayer and about 70 per cent of that in future years.

On June 12, staff made proposals to council on how to spend \$6.5 million. There were to be subsequent public discussions on these spending proposals before returning to council for a final vote.

However, a motion by Councillor John Challinor was passed to proceed immediately to spend the \$6.5 million in question, plus the \$2.5 million from 1999. The only public input would be on how to give out the annual interest on a \$5.5 million community fund (probably

\$25,000).

I attended the June 12 meeting and offer the following observations:

1. Staff made recommendations on how to spend the \$6.5 million. There was no indication on how the \$2.5 million would be spent but I felt confident they would find a way.

2. Interest on casino revenue beginning in August 1999 has not been isolated from general funds. If returned, it would add about \$2 million to available revenue by the end of 2000.

3. \$3 million of the 6.5 would pay down Town debt, but the savings in interest, wasn't dedicated to tax relief. Also in the presentation, staff mentioned that reduction in debt now would make it easier to borrow later, thus negating the benefit of lower debt.

4. \$1.4 million was to be held in case the Province cancels an equivalent infrastructure grant. I suggest the cancellation is more likely to

happen with council sitting on \$9 million in extra revenue.

5. \$1.4 million is to be spent for future facilities and capital required because of growth but not covered by development charges. I thought development paid for itself.

6. A community trust would be set up as an independent body, beyond control of council, and given \$.5 million per year so that it could dispense the earnings on the fund to special interest groups. This would commit funds beyond the first year and beyond the term of this council. Over time it would put millions of dollars under control of some remote board that no doubt would need operating funds to manage it. The alternative would be to budget \$25,000 per year in special interest grants and leave the \$.5 million in taxpayers pockets. The only reason I can see for this proposal is that it takes \$.5 million per year out of taxpayers reach. Surely it can't be an example of

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