

OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Niagara Escarpment a big part of our identity

Dear Editor:

Mr. Bjelic's letter to the editor of June 20 made reference to Escarpment Country while objecting to the quarries found along the escarpment. As president of the Milton Chamber of Commerce I would like to take this opportunity to explain to your readers what Escarpment Country is.

Escarpment Country is a registered trademark of the Milton Chamber of Commerce and was established by the Escarpment Country Tourism Committee of the chamber in order to create an easily-identifiable theme that capitalized on our ideal geographical location, namely the Niagara Escarpment.

Tourism has been identified as a primary industry in Milton and one that could benefit with further economic development. The Escarpment Country Tourism Committee is a marketing and promotional alliance of partner businesses and associations all of whom rely on tourists/visitors for their business success. Milton/Campbellville and surrounding area attracts well over 1 million visitors each year.

Escarpment Country Tourism includes Conservation Halton and its 9,000 acres of parkland centered on the Niagara Escarpment. It consists of Mohawk Raceway, seasonal fairs and festivals, area market gardens, pick-your-own-farms, an

ostrich farm, museums, sports venues, eateries, accommodations, art and antique galleries, specialty shopping and much more. We currently have 48 partners.

Those of us who live in Milton, Campbellville, Kilbride, Moffat, Brookville, etc. are fortunate to live in an area that can offer so much within minutes from our homes. This is evident in the number of people who will soon be calling Milton their hometown. The Escarpment is a unique area that's very much an integral part of the identity of all residents of Milton/Campbellville and surrounding areas.

**Michael O'Gorman, president
Milton Chamber of Commerce**

It's really very lonely out here in tax relief land

• from CASINO on page 6

how council can spend the casino revenue better than taxpayers could.

I can understand that Milton may need more spending because taxes have been held down and there will be a need to bridge into the new development period. In normal times, council would budget as much in new spending as taxpayers would stand for in tax increases. That is a healthy control mechanism. In this case, they have

grabbed a stream of revenue that in effect doubles the tax revenue and don't want to give any back.

My suggestion is for council to dedicate the total stream of casino revenue, in principle, to tax relief and then to prepare several levels of incremental project spending for discussion with the public to determine how much of their \$600 each taxpayer would like to return. Having the \$600 in taxpayer pockets rather than council's returns the healthy balance to the process.

I believe that the only option for a responsible council is to reverse the June 12 decision and either head in a new direction or defer the issue, and the money, to the next council in December. I ask taxpayers to please write to the Town or speak to your councillor.

At the June 12 meeting I heard a comment that only one taxpayer had suggested using casino revenue for tax relief. It's lonely out here!

**Gary Ellis
Milton**

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 or leave them at our office, 191 Main St. E., or fax to 878-4943.

Spot the Shopper Contest!



We've circled a face in the crowd from the Chamber of Commerce Downtown Farmers Market. If this is you, come down to the Canadian Champion and identify yourself before 5 pm. Friday, June 30th and you'll win a gift certificate from The Milton Therapeutic Massage Clinic.



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