



# COMMENT

## Our town's downtown core can flourish, too

It's time for Milton's downtown core to decide if it's going to sink or swim.

In recent years, competition from malls and big box retailers have made it tough for historic downtown centres such as Milton's Main Street to thrive. This issue will become even more critical with growth looming on the horizon.

Fortunately, a burgeoning population doesn't have to ring a death knell for downtown centres.

Diligent effort aided by a helpful proximity to Lake Ontario has allowed Oakville's Lakeshore strip to flourish despite rapid growth throughout the town.

In Milton, the spectacular Niagara Escarpment can similarly entice people into the downtown core. But to make it work, outstanding issues such as parking and streetscaping must be resolved.

Recognizing the challenge ahead, the Town has hired a consultant to look at ways of shoring up Milton's commercial centre.

That's good news, as saving Main Street can't happen after the fact. Planning its rejuvenation now is the right thing to do.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### We couldn't have done it without you

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Ladies Drive 4 Cancer Golf Tournament Committee, a special thank you is extended to all those who contributed to our Fifth Annual Tournament.

We owe our success to many people. To 184 golfers, your continued enthusiasm encourages us to strive to make this event more enjoyable each year.

The Milton and surrounding community again has shown their support for our cause.

A special thank you goes to all our hole and cart sponsors, silent and penny

auction contributors and gift and cash donors. Without your generosity we wouldn't be able to run this.

To Granite Ridge and the Albatross restaurant, your expertise and efficiency made our jobs so much easier.

To date we have raised more than \$30,000 to support breast cancer research.

Thank you all again to everyone and we look forward to your continued support in 2001.

**Cheryl Davidson**  
Ladies Drive 4 Cancer Golf  
Tournament Committee

### Monument's condition a disgrace for Canadians

(The following letter was sent to Halton MP Julian Reed and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

I would refer you to two articles from The Globe & Mail relating to the rapidly deteriorating condition of the Vimy Ridge monument in France, and the fact that virtually nothing is being done about it.

The first, dated May 13, 2000, carries the title "Canada's disgrace on Vimy Ridge -- Hallowed monument is allowed to crumble" by Alan Freeman, European Bureau, Vimy Ridge, France and begins:

"It is Canada's most important monument to the soldiers who fought and died in the First World War, but that doesn't mean the federal government has been willing to put up the cash to fix it."

The content of Mr. Freeman's article is shocking and disturbing when we consider this monument honours 66,655 fallen Canadians during this war and your government does nothing about it. Sheila

Copps, heritage minister, proclaiming April 9 Vimy Day just doesn't do it.

The second article, dated May 20, 2000, is by Jack Granatstein, noted author and Canadian historian. He shows this very impressive and massive monument. Mr. Granatstein reports that the memorial is crumbling and cracking and chunks of limestone are coming off in visitors' hands, that its statues have taken on blotches of green moss and black mould, and the names becoming all but illegible. He writes, "That the Vimy Memorial itself is crumbling before our eyes is a national shame and it deserves correction."

While writing this letter, I'm reminded that my children attended John McCrae School in Guelph, named in honour of Colonel John McCrae, who left us the gift of his poem 'In Flanders Fields', perhaps the best known poem of this or any other war. On Remembrance Day, the school would take the children

to a cenotaph across from the school for a short service, including the recitation of the colonel's poem, and concluded with the raising of the Canadian flag and singing our national anthem. I'm grateful this school instilled in my children that freedom sometimes come at a high price and never take it for granted. The fading names at Vimy Ridge are proof of that.

Your government has failed us miserably on the Vimy Ridge monument and embarrassed us in front of the world. This monument reminds me though that our dead heroes believed in democracy and the right to vote as we choose. I'm looking forward to the next election when we might have a government interested in preserving the memory of those who never gave a thought as to whether their names should be inscribed on a monument but who instead gave their lives for Canada and all it stands for.

**Elizabeth Harrison**  
Campbellville



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by Steve Nease