



COMMENT

Things will heat up after summer's over

There may not have been much of it to speak of, but summer is limping to a close.

Only a few more weekends at the cottage are left before a slight chill appears below the surface of the balmy air, signalling that the leaves will soon be changing colour.

With fall, a series of events should take place in and around Milton. Construction for the first phase of the town's growth should launch.

A municipal election will be held, possibly changing the face of those who represent us at the most accessible level of government.

There could even be a federal election called.

At least a portion of the Maplehurst Correctional Complex will likely open as a superjail.

The fight over land at the E.C. Drury complex will go before the Ontario Municipal Board. And a hearing to determine the fate of a tract of land leading up to the Niagara Escarpment will be held.

Since most of these issues appeared to take a summer break, the point is to enjoy the peace while it's here.

It won't last much longer.



OUR READERS WRITE

It's easy to see why these signs are portable

Dear Editor:

The despoiling of rural Milton has begun. Soon the current town will be surrounded by thousands of acres of eye-numbing subdivisions.

It would appear that many of the merchants in Milton are taking up arms against this invasion of blandness by displaying temporary signs notable for either their outlandish colours or their proximity to the curb.

It's easy to see why these signs are portable. Nobody in their right mind would want one as a permanent sign.

The signs come in two basic forms — the wheeled, framed plastic panel with

the clip-on letters, and the sandwich board.

These kinds of signs are intended to advertise short-term events but often are dragged to the roadside for display and then left there to fade or peel.

Apparently there are bylaws for signs in Milton but they've never been enforced. As a result, thoroughfares like Main Street, Steeles Avenue and Bronte Street have become ribbons of tackiness.

If sign bylaws haven't been enforced because no one has complained, let me be the first to take a stand.

Doug Mohun
Milton

I must think of those in my care first: nurse

Dear Editor:

How many times have I read another "poor me I am a teacher" letter recently? As a registered nurse (RN) in a long-term-care facility, I think it's my turn.

On any given day of the week or any hour of the day RNs are responsible for 50 to 200 residents. We don't close on the weekends. We don't have March Break. There is no shut down for Christmas and summer isn't the time to take extra courses. Those courses are done during the year on our time, as we have no professional development days to update ourselves.

I work 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. I arrive at close to 6:30 a.m., as I have to receive reports and critical information on those in my care for the day. I then make sure paper work is done for outside doctor's appointments, blood work or x-rays. Then I make sure all my staff has arrived. If not, I must make arrangements for replacement staff. Then I can start my paid time.

I give reports to staff, pass medications twice daily, ensure everyone has eaten and check on ill residents. Anything out of the ordinary that happens such as a fall or a sudden illness of a resident causes the 'to dos' of the day to be set aside until I get back to them. There's no course outline here and no amount of preparation will work, as each day is different and you learn quickly to be ready for anything.

Families drop in at any time and as many as four to eight families will want five to 15 minutes of my undivided attention for updates on their loved one. I can usually fit this in by giving up my unpaid lunch and coffee breaks.

As all our funding depends on our accurate and detailed documentation, it's essential to take time daily to ensure records are updated and current. I wish I had 4.75 hours or so to spend with these dear souls and use the rest of the time for prep work.

I once read a question from a

teacher in this same paper. Could I teach four grade 11 classes of Shakespearean English? I think so. I would prepare ahead of time, stick to the course outline and just think... if I had taught the class for several years I could just pull out my old notes.

What part of the day should I remove myself from the hands-on care to these frail elderly to do my paper work? Shall it be your mother or your father that waits? I couldn't make the decision.

I'll continue to do the work I love and I'll stay late again to finish up and not begrudge a minute of it. I won't threaten to go on strike illegally, as that would leave no one to care for these dear souls. It's what I have chosen to do and I will continue to do my best amid government cuts and staff shortages. I must think of those in my care before my own selfish needs and wants. I am a nurse.

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by Steve Nease

