



# COMMENT

## We'll see what's in the cards for development

It has been more than a year since slot machines were added to Mohawk Raceway, but it appears gambling has finally caught on.

How else to explain the daring roll of the dice performed by the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) recently?

It opted to launch an appeal to cabinet of a joint board ruling on the development potential of approximately 100 hectares of land leading up to the escarpment.

The ruling turned one bid down flat, but put a second on hold until a detailed concept plan is submitted by the applicant.

The NEC position has always been that both properties belong in the protective Niagara Escarpment Plan, which aims to preserve precious escarpment vistas. To that end, the appeal explicitly asked that cabinet reject both bids.

Which could happen. But cabinet could also decide that each property should be untethered from the restrictive plan.

In other words, simply launching the appeal has brought the rejected bid back into the game, and could thaw the one currently on ice.

The majority of voting members of the NEC were within their rights to play this hand. One can only hope they're sure of the cards.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### 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,  
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Or leave them at our office, 191 Main St. E., fax to 878-4943 or e-mail to [Miltone@Haltonsearch.com](mailto:Miltone@Haltonsearch.com).

### Idle hands are the devil's work, says reader

Dear Editor:

Over the past few years I have read different letters in your paper concerning the youth in this town and what should be done with them. In Milton this has always seemed to create a certain problem.

I have lived in this town since 1966. I know what your solutions have been.

The riot act was read in Milton approximately 25 years ago on 'Devil's Night' (the night before Halloween) and some of the same people it was read to are now criticizing the youth of today.

Kids do get mischievous, we all know that. It's part of growing up. But one of the things that my mother and grandmother always said was that idle hands are the devil's work. So I say to the people that would criticize the youth of today, what have we done to keep them busy?

Here's what I have found out: I have a copy of the June, 1957 Milton Champion and at that time

it was, of course, Milton's centennial year so maybe the dance they had that Friday was an exception to the rule, but the fact that there was a wrestling match at the John Street Arena (Many of you know the location as the post office, right downtown.) wasn't. Oh yes, and the Roxy (located on Main Street) was showing the latest movies. I'm not sure when the bowling alley was built (now NASCAR Pit) but it was operating when I was growing up.

There were youth dances at the agriculture building located at the fairgrounds when I was a teenager and, of course, the Rotary Park Swimming Pool was always packed in the summer time.

Does anyone beside me see a pattern here? The youth of today in Milton had better have great walking legs if they want to do anything — that is, if their parents will let them walk there especially after dark, which it usually is in the winter time. We used to go to hockey

games, even if hockey wasn't your thing because you could walk there and your friends were usually there. Care for a hike to Thompson Road Arena? Bowling Alley? Non-existent. How about a show? Well, it used to be quite a hike, but, again, non-existent.

How about a dance? Well, there is the Milton Leisure Centre the odd Friday night — quite a hike — but only if you're under 14.

Sure, in the summer time there's always baseball, but the benches at the diamonds are in atrocious shape where they do exist and I won't even mention what kind of condition the diamonds themselves are in half of the time.

Ladies and gentlemen, Milton is going to grow and very fast, and along with growth comes children, many more children. What are you going to do about it?

The main new event in town is the skateboard park, which I think is a good idea, but I feel it needs to

• see PLEASE on page 7



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### Pud

