



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Council, do right thing

There comes a time when someone just has to stand up and say enough.

The time is now, and the person is any town councillor who has so far opposed negotiating a Childs Drive access for a development slated for the E.C. Drury lands.

The Ontario Municipal Board has made its decision on this matter and it isn't going to reverse it. A late March deadline was not to determine if the development can go ahead, but to give participants a chance to make the approved development as safe as possible.

The time has already been used to help meet the needs of the Milton Tennis Club, which has the misfortune of being plunked down in the area where 189 geared-to-seniors bungalows will soon rise. Others have questioned the legality of maintaining a seniors-only occupancy of the homes. But would younger residents be any less deserving of safe streets? How about those who choose to visit them?

This isn't just any political hot potato. It isn't a popularity contest. And there's just too much to lose in continuing to block even rational discussions on this issue.

Childs Drive is seen by Town staff and the OMB as a safer access, and no consideration should rank higher than public safety. Lives could hang in the balance. So look to the future, councillors, and do the right thing.

My stay here has been marked by many caring people

Ah, well. It had to happen. Milton has been busted.

For years, the town huddled in the cloak of anonymity availed to it by virtue of being dry as the Gobi desert, in terms of water for new development, anyway.

At that time, even my nearest and dearest pals could sometimes be heard to wonder aloud if Milton was indeed nestled in the heart of the GTA, one of a string of baubles strung along Hwy. 401, or if it wasn't in fact closer to Kapuskasing, wherever that may be.

Being inhospitable by nature I would coyly refuse to answer, thus managing to prevent any one of them from barging in and raiding my refrigerator.

Well, it's human nature to hug a diamond to your chest, rather than hand it off to the next Tom, Dick or Harry who stumbles by you on the way to the loo.

Even so, I did my share of promoting the town, telling anyone who'd listen that the sun always shines in Milton.

Of course, this was pretty safe to say, because no one ever believed me. Especially since many of them figured Milton must be near

Kapuskasing, or somewhere else very far north. And anything very far north must be overburdened with snow. Which is produced by clouds. Which have a way of blocking the sun.

Strange. Canadians have a field day giggling about those funny Americans who believe we travel to work each day on husky-driven sleds. How much funnier is it that residents of Toronto believe Milton to be toque-deep in snow until August?

Anyway, despite my best efforts, the truth came out and now all the former nay-sayers are babbling about buying a home here.

Which is ironic, because after five extremely happy years in this town, I'm moving out.

I guess it's true that nothing lasts forever and all good things must come to an end.

So in very short order, I'll be leaving both Milton and The Champion.

Since I'm not headed to Kapuskasing, I suppose I'll be able to return and see what they've made of my little paradise, accented as it is with the looming Niagara Escarpment and glittering with sunshine. In no time, this town could be decked out as brightly as a Liberace out on the town with Elton John.



OUR READERS WRITE

Up for the challenge

Every year Miltonians repond to help those in need and every year the generosity is amazing

Dear Editor:

Re: The Salvation Army Christmas Campaign

Every year during the months leading up to Christmas Day, we at the Salvation Army ask for assistance in helping those who are less fortunate.

Every year the citizens of Milton respond to the challenge and every year we're amazed at their generos-

ity.

We would like to thank all those who donated to The Canadian Champion's Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund, placed donations in one of our kettles, or who brought in a donation to the Food Bank.

Thank you also to those kind citizens who made donations to our toy and food drives.

We can't say thank you enough to everyone who helped us help others.

Our commitment to this community is as strong as ever.

We will keep on helping the citizens of Milton.

Thank you for entrusting us with this responsibility.

Janice Tansey,
Family services worker
Milton Salvation Army office



Gentle persuasion

with IRENE GENTLE

Already new houses are rising in the south-east. The water is happily gurgling along the pipe from Lake Ontario to Milton. And some believe the province is all but rubbing its hands together and cackling with glee while plotting to amalgamate anything that accidentally bumps into something else in the dark.

Which, come to think of it, is how many marriages start.

Anyway, my personal memories of Milton will be many and varied. The Farmers' Market on a Saturday, Steve Kabakos as Elvis shaking his blue suede shoes in the streets for Moonlight Madness, cars beating the tar out of one another in the Milton Fall Fair demolition derby. Tiny

snatches of small town life that weave into a brilliant tapestry.

And since work takes up so much of daily life, I can't leave out those here at The Champion.

My friends in this newsroom are among the most supportive I've known, ever willing to help out, always quick with praise.

They've become such an integral part of life, it's hard to imagine being without them. Fortunately, I won't be far, just a 40 minute drive or so down the road to my new station as editor of Metroland's Flamborough Post.

That should make it easier to keep in touch with my colleagues here to find out the ending to all the stories I've been working on for so long.

Like the final chapter of the never-ending E.C. Drury development saga, or the sentence handed down to former financial advisor Michael Bourgon, who recently pled guilty to various fraud charges in court.

My stay has been marked by many kind, caring people. And in my heart, Milton has left a legacy to be proud of.

Now the future awaits us all. But to paraphrase the famous line, we'll always have Milton.