



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Different times ahead for real estate market

Growth is already affecting the local real estate market and we've probably only seen the tip of the iceberg so far.

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, the resale housing market is booming much due to existing residents selling their homes to move into the new development areas.

The activity benefits real estate companies and many other businesses but perhaps might not turn out so well for resale homeowners themselves.

Houses are sitting for sale longer and it's logical the competition may bring prices down.

On the other hand, the resale market has an advantage in that the new housing developments we've seen fall short in terms of lot size.

The new homes being built are obviously fresh and feature more modern design, but there's little area between homes and limited backyard space compared to many existing lots.

And that's unattractive to some home buyers seeking privacy, space for a nice garden or room for the kids to play outside.

It comes down to what the home buyer is looking for and how long the resale homeowner can wait for the right buyer.



OUR READERS WRITE

Road Watch Program can make a difference

Dear Editor:

Re: May 11 letter 'Miltonians are the worst speeders...'

As a supporter and chair of Milton's Road Watch Program, I read your article that reported Miltonians as being the worst speeders with mixed emotion. It was discouraging to have Halton Regional Police's Project Gateway study report alarming rates of speeding violations, yet encouraging to see this issue getting the attention it deserves in order to combat the problem.

Milton currently holds the worst automobile collision record for all of Halton (this doesn't include acci-

dents along the Hwy. 401 corridor) plus the highest number of fatalities in 2000.

Something must be done to stop these violations and make our roads safer for ourselves, our families and our neighbours. The Road Watch Program is designed to do just that. Adopted by Milton in 1998, the program encourages residents to confidentially report dangerous and aggressive drivers to the police. All you have to do is fill out a simple form, which can be obtained from any police station, library, and the Town Hall, describing the incident, then the police will do the rest. The driver will receive a letter from the

police, and after three violations, charges could be considered.

It's frustrating to see people driving less responsibly, with little regard for the safety of themselves and others. Milton is a family community where safety should be our top priority.

I encourage everyone to participate in the Road Watch Program. We're a non-profit group run by volunteers, but with the current support of the police force and through community enforcement, we can make a big difference.

Jan Mowbray
Chair, Milton Road Watch Program

Our gem of a pond has been reset, quite nicely too

You wouldn't have recognized it a few months ago.

The water's back. The gazebo's built. The fish that once swam freely will swim again.

The Mill Pond at Centennial Park has undergone its fair share of revamping.

Over the last few years, sediment and millfoal had choked out the 51-year-old pond, which prompted the major restoration.

The excavation of the pond began in December, 1999. Thirty-thousand cubic metres of sediment was removed. Carp and suckers, along with other fish species (including an eight-pound goldfish) were removed from the water.

The pond was re-filled in March and the work surrounding the pond is close to completion.

Peter Linn, the Town's engineer, and Ken McAlpine, the Town's co-ordinator of parks and facilities development, recently gave me an overview of the new additions in the park.

A hydro box was recently installed, which will allow lights to be strung across the gazebo during

Christmas and other events.

Newly-planted trees and shrubs will line the shore. A sign will be erected at the front of the park later this summer outlining the history of the park, accompanied by photos.

(Because sunfish and bass live in warm water, they'll be arriving to the pond in July.)

And arguably the most important addition to Centennial Park is the newly-named Mill Pond Millennium Gazebo.

The building of the gazebo was a legacy project spearheaded by the Milton 2000 Committee in honour of the Town's millennium celebrations.

A community-wide contest was held for residents to submit name suggestions for the structure, which was officially named last month.

The gazebo was definitely the first thing I noticed when walking up the pathway toward the pond. The way it's structured almost gives the impression it's floating on the water, which was the main reason I wanted to walk out to it. I experienced an almost magical feeling when I leaned



Random thoughts

with FANNIE SUNSHINE

over the railing and gazed at the water as the sun sparkled over it.

And if you're planning your wedding in the spring or summer months, the gazebo may be rented to be used as the perfect background setting for your wedding photos.

Besides sitting on one of the benches near the foot of the pond or standing in the gazebo, visitors can also take advantage of the trails that border the pond.

Livingston Park and the Jaycees trails surround

the pond and Rotary Park is just west of Centennial Park. The overall intent is to eventually link the parks together through a series of trails with the Mill Pond as the centre jewel.

And what a jewel it will be.

With the growth of the town underway it seems only natural to want to preserve areas in the community devoted to peace and quiet — a place where families can walk through the trails or take their dog for a stroll on a warm day with thoughts of traffic, new development and pollution left at home.

While I was waiting to meet with Mr. McAlpine and Mr. Linn in the park Wednesday morning I noticed an elderly man sitting by himself on one of the benches, just staring off at the water. He got up slowly, made his way down to the shoreline and stood for several minutes before heading down Martin Street.

I think we should all take time to appreciate the beauty nature has to offer because before we know it, all we'll have left are memories.