



# COMMENT

## Where's our share of extra police officers

It's good news that the Halton Regional Police Service has received funding to hire more officers, however where's Milton's share of the additional manpower?

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, last Tuesday Police Chief Ean Algar accepted a cheque from the solicitor general for \$541,013 to help pay for the cost of additional officers.

Then on Friday, we received a press release announcing that 11 new officers will be added to the ranks of Halton police this Friday. Five officers will be assigned to Halton Hills, four will go to Burlington, and two will be placed in Oakville. Milton received none.

Following the last round of recruiting in April, Milton was assigned just two officers compared to four each in Burlington and Oakville and three in Halton Hills.

And in police hiring before that, we can recall that the town received only a few, if any, officers.

Police have promised Milton more officers as the town grows, but isn't Milton right now just as needy and deserving of some extra law enforcement personnel as Oakville, Burlington and Halton Hills?



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Train whistle could save lives, says reader

Dear Editor:

A while back some citizens of the village of Campbellville got a petition to stop the train whistle.

In the June 5 Champion, a photo showed a tractor-trailer unit had been struck on a double track by a CN train going west.

If that whistle had been in place and blown, the driver would have detected that there was a second train approaching and could have prevented this accident from happening.

This driver had angels that day. If it would have been an eastbound train that had collided with the tractor-trailer, he

would have been in pieces and shoveled into a body bag.

The accident could have been fatal. It could have been a school bus at that time of day with your loving children aboard coming home.

After loved ones are dead, they don't come back and they're gone forever.

Why are there horns on vehicles and sirens on fire trucks, police cars and ambulances, etc. They all have a purpose — to save lives same as the whistle on a train. It could be a loved one of yours one day.

L. Smith  
Campbellville

### Census records provide link to past: reader

Dear Editor:

As Canadians completed their census forms recently, many wondered if their descendants, hundreds of years from now, will have access to the information they provide.

For the estimated 7.5 million Canadians engaged in the search of their ancestral roots, census records from the 1800s provide a wealth of information and a vital link to the past. That link was abruptly severed after the 1901 census when legislation of the time was interpreted to mean that records should be kept away from the eyes of researchers in perpetuity.

In the past few months, my office has received petitions signed by more than 9,000 Canadians from every province calling for the public release of historic Census records after a reasonable period.

I have, along with Senator Lorna Milne, introduced a private member's bill that would allow records to be released after 92 years.

This bill would also give citizens the ability, during this period, to file an objection to the release of their information. This strikes a reasonable balance between the need for genealogists, historians, and medical researchers to have access to this information and the

individual's right to privacy.

An expert panel of eminent Canadians from academic and legal backgrounds, appointed by former Industry Minister John Manley, was unequivocal in calling for the release of records after 92 years. The panel also conclusively refuted arguments that the government had promised records would be sealed in perpetuity. Our census information is a historical treasure that tells future generations who we were in times gone by. This treasure must not be lost.

MP Murray Calder  
Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey

### Victoria Street residents asked to accept group home

Dear Editor:

Victoria Street residents have a wonderful opportunity to teach their own kids love and compassion by opening their hearts and creating a warm welcome for the children who will be living in the FGI group home.

Those kids will need a lot of love and understanding — not rejection and judgement, which is why they're in that home to begin with. A proactive approach rather

than fearful and reactive could look like a neighbourhood-welcoming barbecue, individual families dropping by with meals on moving day.

Ask your kids how they would welcome their new neighbours. Do unto others, as you would like them to do unto you.

Brenda Stephenson  
Campbellville



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Burlington Shopping News, City Parent, City of York Guardian, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Forever Young, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Halton Business Times, Huronia Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga Business Times, Mississauga News, Napanee Guide, Nassagaweya News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune.

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