

Chudleigh in favour of pay hike

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

A 25 per cent MPP pay raise won't take affect until after the next election, and Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh says he can't think of a better time.

"When I ran in 1999, I knew what the salary was and that's what I ran for. I didn't expect a big bump mid-term," he said. "I think the whole compensation package was pretty fair and I think it was put forward in a fair way."

After public backlash to a proposed 42 per cent raise this spring, the responsibility of determining an appropriate increase was handed to Integrity Commissioner Gregory Evans.

Earlier this week, Mr. Evans announced MPPs would receive a 3 per cent raise retroactive to April 1 and an additional 3 per cent each year until the next election — expected in 2003. Following the election, salaries will rise by 25 per cent.

"I've never liked the idea that MPPs vote on their own salary. I've always thought that was very suspicious and I think the public does too," said Mr. Chudleigh. "I like the way that this salary increase is handled by the integrity commissioner, which is an appropriate person to look at these things."

MPPs previously earned a \$78,007 annual salary. Following the next election, salaries will rise to \$106,554.

This is the first raise MPPs have received since 1990. In 1995, under the NDP government, MPPs accepted a 5.5 per cent pay decrease.

The integrity commissioner's decision to raise salaries was a necessary one, Mr. Chudleigh continued.

Without the increased salary, it would be difficult to attract and keep political figures who could earn more working in the private sector, he said.

"The Ontario government is a \$60-billion-a-year operation. That's about the same size, I think, as the Ford Motor Company world-wide. You want some pretty good people running an enterprise that size and its appropriate that you pay a salary that would attract those people," he said.

"If you don't have a very good compensation package, what you get is a group of individuals who are wealthy in their own right running for politics. That creates a government for the rich and by the rich."

MILTON CAFÉ

SPICY INDIAN & CANADIAN CUISINE

Both Eastern and Western Hemispheres come together at Milton Café with the owner Ben, who comes from South India. He has been in the restaurant business for the past 25 years. He is well versed in all varieties of Indian Cuisine.

Merle comes from Trinidad, who is the expert in the DALPURI AND CURRY DISHES. East and west meet to tickle your taste buds! All their foods are made with fresh herbs and spices using a lot of ginger and garlic and only top quality meat products go into their dishes.

Miltonians are very happy that there is now a curry house in Milton and contentedly proclaim we have the best curry in the area. Ben and Merle say "we have many loyal customers who come from Guelph, Acton, Brampton, Georgetown and Oakville. They have read about us in the Canadian Champion and passed on this information to their friends and families. And here is a sample of foods that they prepare:

Our seafood omelettes are the talk of the town, as well, we offer regular breakfast, bagels and cream cheese, all day. For lunch, there is the famous club sandwich with greek or caesar salad, home made pita breads and delicious salmon burgers. Our dinner starts with grilled salmon and caesar salad, steak and fries and our own specialty is of course, the curry with DALPURI ROTI. It comes with chicken, beef, goat, shrimp or a vegetarian curry.

Or if you don't want to have dinner just drop by for a cup of coffee and a homemade samosa or try their delicious cheese cake and other sweets.

Ben and Merle also offer take out or delivery and cater to office parties or home parties.

One of their loyal customers says "Milton Café is a great food experience in a very pleasant surrounding. Indian food with a Caribbean flair, well seasoned and delicious. The vegetable omelette and french fries are exceptional - and the price is reasonable. Try the caesar salad, you'll come back. This is one of Milton's new and unknown gems.

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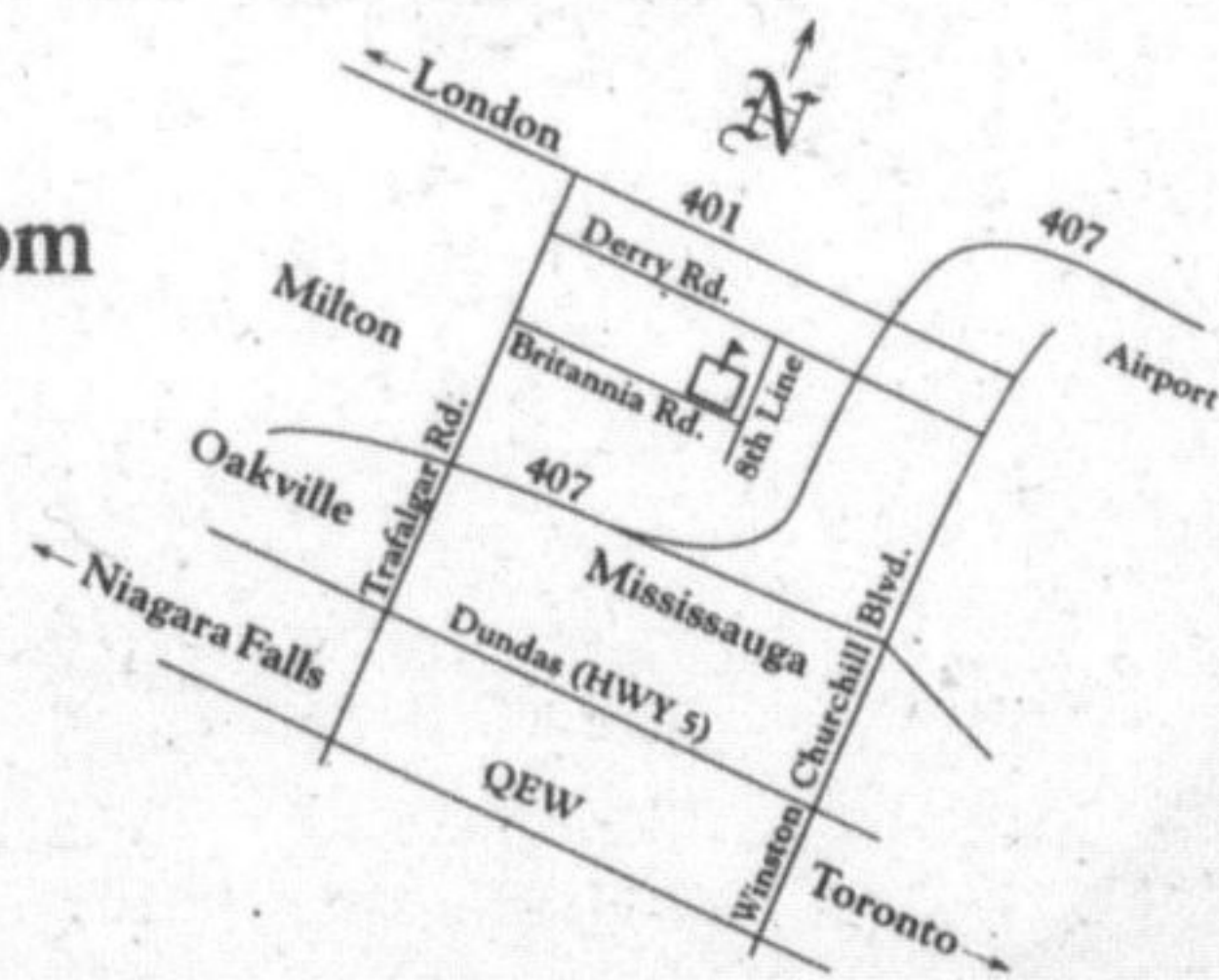
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CORRECTION NOTICE

"We wish to point out that a printing error appears in The Canadian Champion Phone Book regarding the location of the place of practice of Dr. Debbie Hawkins. Please be aware that Dr. Hawkins ONLY operates from her own Veterinary Hospital, located at 550 Ontario Street South (the Pizza Hut Plaza). (905) 875-6888

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