



COMMENT

Let's not forget those with empty stomachs

Milton is noted for its tree-lined streets, quiet neighbourhoods and sense of community. It's also generally affluent.

But behind some of those closed doors, there are individuals and families struggling to make ends meet; struggling to provide the basic necessities of life such as food and shelter. They're the working poor, the unemployed and the destitute.

And if you don't believe Milton has its share of citizens living below the poverty line, just ask the people working for local service agencies and churches. They will tell you that poverty can be well hidden.

No doubt many people turned to the Salvation Army for Thanksgiving supplies, and now Christmas — when times will really get tough — is just around the corner.

Those who have full stomachs on a daily basis hopefully won't forget about those who aren't so lucky, especially during the holiday season. But donations are accepted at any time of year and there's never a bad time to make your contribution.

For your convenience, drop-off bins are located in the lobbies of Loblaws and A&P and at the Food Court at Milton Mall.



OUR READERS WRITE

Hospital volunteers won't have to pay for parking, says public relations officer

Dear Editor:

(This letter is in response to a letter sent to Halton Healthcare Services from volunteer Katherin Forshner about parking fees at Milton District Hospital.)

I'm very sorry for the confusion, but in all of our communications we've made it clear that volunteers won't have to pay for parking at Milton District Hospital.

You will most likely be given an access card that you can freely use whenever you exit the parking lot.

We value your contributions to the hospital and to our entire organization,

and wouldn't expect you to pay to help us. Again, I apologize for any confusion here.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could ease the minds of the other volunteers by passing along the message. If you wish, there's a question-and-answer document about the Milton parking situation that you can pick up in the administration office or business office at Milton hospital. This document might answer more of your questions.

Jill Salajko

Halton Healthcare Services

Reader says local quarrying has destroyed Milton's picturesque Niagara Escarpment

Dear Editor:

I'm really bothered by the Niagara Escarpment quarry expansion plans, and here's why.

In the past 10 years my father and I have so far hiked from Niagara to Collingwood via weekend jaunts on the Bruce Trail. The most traumatic and upsetting thing we've seen on those hikes was a few years back when we approached the area of the escarpment north of Milton, opposite Rattlesnake Point. When we did that day hike, I had both an older orange version of the trail guide and my father had a newer brown/gold one.

I was upset that whole sections of the escarpment map that used to show streams and woods showed cryptically as quarry on the newer map.

But that was nothing like I felt when we approached this area and saw the scope of the devastation. That beautiful escarpment that we

had seen so many times from Hwy. 401 as we drove west from Milton was a facade.

What looks like a continuous healthy forest from the road is in actuality only a narrow strip of trees bordering a huge quarry. While we hiked across this gap we approached the noise and dust of the gravel crushers and trucks.

As we ate our lunch on the remains of what was once a spectacular peninsula, we counted about an average of one gravel truck leaving every 11 seconds.

For an area of miles there's simply no escarpment left.

We were shocked that this, of all areas — a United Nations Biosphere Reserve — was being "trucked away" while we watched, almost like they were stealing the ground beneath your feet. We were dismayed that what used to be a trail crossing over streams was now a gaping, ugly pit.

I know we need gravel and building materials for concrete. But I plead with everyone to do what you can to stop further quarry expansions in this area. How can we condemn others for burning the rain forest when we ourselves are destroying one of the most beautiful nature preserves in Ontario — the Niagara Escarpment? And for what — concrete and gravel for more strip malls?

Please citizens, let's get it from somewhere else — not the backbone of Ontario.

Let's not pave paradise and put up a parking lot.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission will review this proposal between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Thursday (Oct. 17) in Council Chambers in Georgetown.

Be there to see if any escarpment will be left.

Gord Harris
Georgetown



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