



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Richard Vivian's column 'Democracy failed us' is misleading: Malboeuf

Dear Editor:

As a member of council I take offence to the column in the November 5 Champion by Richard Vivian entitled 'Democracy failed us'.

The column implies that what occurred at the council meeting of October 28 pertaining to the smoking bylaw was improper and undemocratic. That is not the case.

When the mayor called for the vote on the motion to review the bylaw, four members of council raised their hands in favor while five members raised their hands in opposition.

In the opinion of the mayor, Councillor Art Melanson didn't raise his hand to vote. Had Mr. Melanson actually voted and the mayor had simply missed it, all Mr. Melanson had to do was rise and advise the mayor of that fact. Mr. Melanson didn't, therefore that leads me to believe that he had decided at that time to abstain

from voting, which is his right.

Mr. Melanson has been on council for more than 20 years. He should know the procedure by now.

As for the request for a second recorded vote, Robert's rules of debate, which is what we go by, clearly states that a second vote on an issue cannot be asked for immediately following the original vote.

Also only a member who was on the winning side of the original vote can bring forward a motion to revisit a resolution already passed.

Councillor Barry Lee, who requested the second vote, was on the losing side of the original vote and therefore couldn't request the second vote. Councillor John Challinor was correct in challenging the chair on those points.

The fact that nobody supported the mayor on the challenge means either that the other coun-

cillors felt as I did, that a call for a second vote wasn't proper or they were asleep at the switch.

Whatever motions were made, votes were called and votes were counted and those asking for a review of the bylaw lost, and even if the vote to review had gone the other way the bylaw wouldn't have changed concerning bars and restaurants.

In order to amend the bylaw it requires a two-thirds majority vote, and if we're to believe the public statements made by members of council, there aren't seven members of this council who are prepared to allow smoking again in bars and restaurants.

The only amendment that may come about from a revisit is the removal of the exceptions for the casino floor, the bingo hall and the Legion.

Finally, Mr. Vivian suggests that we set up a committee to make a recommendation to council

concerning the smoking bylaw. That's exactly what council did last year.

Council appointed a committee of representatives from various sectors of the community to look at the smoking issue and make recommendations to council.

After four-and-a-half months of work that committee came forward with a recommendation that council approved and is now the current bylaw.

Council has dealt with this issue in depth and the majority of council has spoken. It's time to move on. The voters of Milton will have the opportunity come next November to let us know if they agree with what we did. That's democracy.

Rick Malboeuf,
Town and regional councillor

Reader says people need to exercise more caution at four-lane crosswalks

Dear Editor:

The crosswalk signals on four-lane streets should work so that when a button is pushed on one side the other side engages as well.

On more than one occasion I've seen people who step off the crosswalk island without first pressing the button.

If all the lights flashed at the same time it would allow oncoming traffic advanced warning that there's someone attempting to cross the road and give them time to slow

down and stop.

Please don't assume that because you have hit the button on your side of the road and moved to the centre island that everyone was aware of it.

I think the crosswalk signals should be regarded much like a school bus flasher — once engaged all traffic in the area should come to a complete stop.

M. Daviau
Milton

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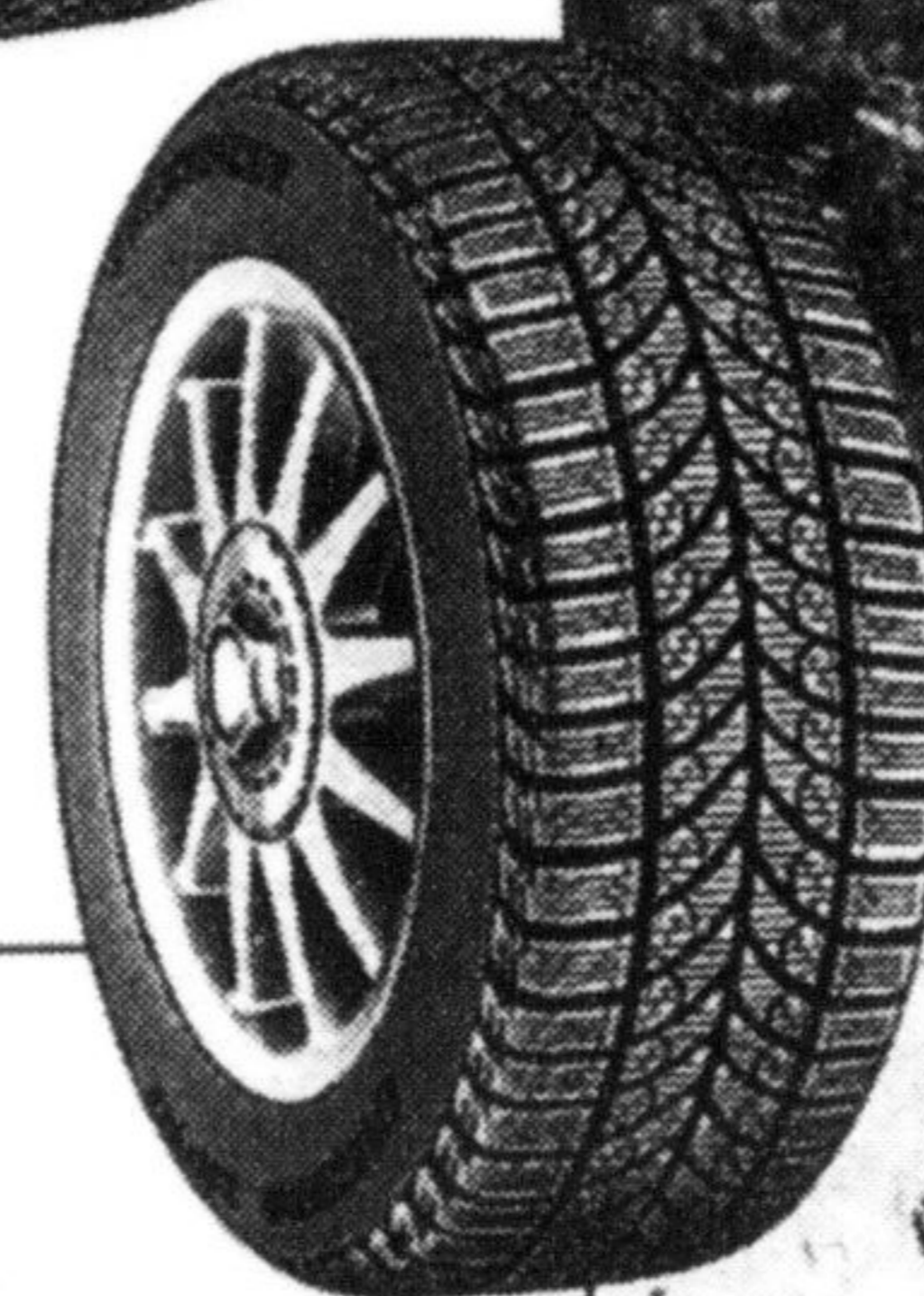
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