

Councillor changes vote; motion still lost

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

A motion to reconsider Milton's smoking bylaw was defeated Monday after Councillor Brian Penman changed his vote.

But changing the vote wasn't a matter of changing opinion, Mr. Penman told The Champion.

"I think that was the way to go. I still got exactly what I wanted," he said, referring to a motion directing Town staff to investigate eliminating exemptions from the bylaw. "A number of us (councillors) have agreed that we'll still get the reconsideration through amending the bylaw."

Last month, Mr. Penman voted in favour of reconsideration during a controversial 5-4 vote that killed the motion.

The vote was taken again Monday after a series of procedural errors resulted in a second vote. Again, the reconsideration died, but this time in a 6-5 tally.

Mr. Penman supported the staff direction

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BRIAN PENMAN

to investigate removing the exemptions — which received majority support.

"Had we gone the other way (reconsideration), we would have put into disarray the whole process and started back at scratch. That would've led to confusion in the restaurant business, the bar business," the councillor said.

"We (council) spent more time wrangling about how to get to first base than what the issue on first base was about."

Currently, half of both the gaming floor and bleachers at Mohawk Racetrack are exempt. As well, Bingo Country has until January 2004 to construct a designated smoking room.

Bureau fund donations are starting to trickle in

The Champion's Christmas Bureau Fund is slowly moving toward its 2002 target.

To date, \$4,207 has been collected for the annual campaign — which ensures that all local families have a nice Christmas, complete with dinner and toys for the children.

A lot more help is need over the next four weeks if this year's goal of \$25,000 is to be reached.

Please send donations payable to the Christmas Bureau Fund, Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9, or drop them off at our office, 191 Main St. E.

Clarification

Information accompanying the Santa Claus Parade photo feature on the Community Page in Tuesday's Champion requires a clarification.

One of the floats was identified as 'Milton

Toyota' and 'Gorrud/Toyota' when in fact it should have read both times as 'Gorrud's/Milton Toyota'.

The Champion regrets any confusion that may have been caused by the wording.

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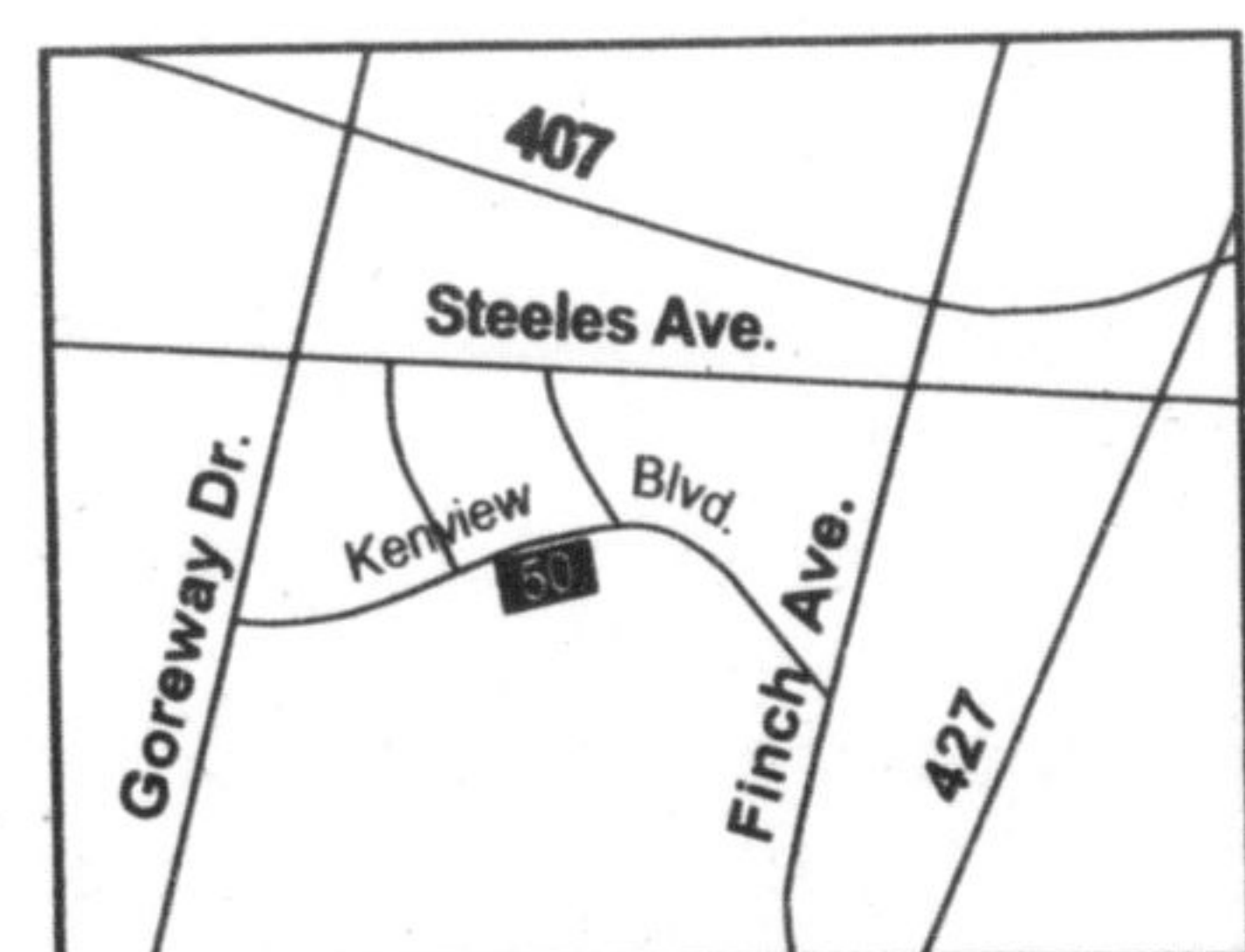
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