



COMMENT

Incidents in Oakville too close for comfort

There's a sexual predator on the loose in Halton who preys on the innocence of small children.

On Thursday in Oakville, an incident at Wal-Mart — which proved to be a false alarm — showed just how tense the community is over recent attacks there. But who could blame them?

The police, public and Wal-Mart staff went into overdrive when they thought the predator had struck again.

Fortunately, this time, the youngster hadn't been touched inappropriately, and for that, we're thankful.

We shouldn't panic, but the recent attacks in Oakville were a little too close to our community for comfort.

As a precaution, when you go shopping with your children, remember to keep a close watch on them at all times. We know it can be difficult to keep the little ones in check, but they can become the victim of a predator in a matter of seconds.

If you notice anyone acting suspiciously toward children, report it to the authorities immediately.

And, if the man responsible for these attacks happens to be reading this, for your own sake and for the sake of others, turn yourself in.

MEL LASTMAN TO RETIRE

I WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH MY FAMILIES...



OUR READERS WRITE

Letters regarding Drury Park and highway proposal right on the money: local couple

Dear Editor:

Two letters to the editor in the January 14 Champion deserve our comments and thanks.

Ken Lamb wrote a succinct, fair and objective letter regarding the land that now comprises the Drury Park development.

His clear-sighted comments should be noted by all concerned and should bring this issue to a close.

Robert Beyette's letter regarding the proposed southern Ontario mid-peninsula highway covers this situation with

clarity and contains so many valid points that we sincerely hope that he has, or will, forward it to Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh, and to Minister of Transportation Norm Sterling.

We echo his concerns and fervently hope that the decision-makers are listening.

The authors of these two letters have taken the time to put into words what many of us only talk about. They have our thanks.

**Don and Ruth Stinson
Milton**

Milton needs more high-density housing, not less, says reader in response to letter

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to the letter titled 'Reader says Milton's town planners need to do a better job managing town's future', which appeared in The Champion Friday, Jan. 10.

While I applaud Tom Wollschlaeger's concern for the welfare of our community and support some of his suggestions, I must take issue with his point about stopping high-density housing.

I agree that it probably is more pleasant for families to live in homes on the size lots that you see in the older parts of town.

Unfortunately, given present conditions, large lots in new developments are a luxury that neither many of the buyers nor the rest of the citizens of Milton can afford.

Using small lots keeps prices

down and makes home ownership more available for families. Aside from that, it has the following benefits for our community:

- It prevents urban sprawl and preserves green space. The more people who can live on a given area of land, the less need there is to use up our farmland and other open spaces.

- Higher density housing makes public transit more affordable, creating more potential riders for a bus route in a given area. In turn, increased use of public transit reduces air pollution and prevents traffic gridlock.

- More housing density makes it easier and cheaper to supply essential services like water, waste management and roads.

I've been following the planning for the next phase of development

to the west and south of town — the Sherwood Survey. During that process, I've been impressed with the expertise and careful thought that has gone into the proposed plans.

My concern is about whether or not truly heavy density residential properties, like apartment buildings, will be built.

They're really needed here to provide safe, affordable housing for seniors, young people at the beginning of their work life and those who can't yet afford to own their own homes.

There continues to be a severe shortage of affordable rental accommodation in Milton. High density isn't a problem, it's a solution.

**Wendy Schau
Randall Crescent**

E-mail your letters to the editor to miltoned@haltonsearch.com.

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

Ian Oliver Publisher

Neil Oliver Associate Publisher

Jill Davis Editor-in-Chief

Karen Smith Editor

Wendy McNab Advertising Manager

Steve Crozier Circulation Manager

Teri Casas Office Manager

Tim Coles Production Manager

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.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product

Pud

by Steve Nease

