



COMMENT



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, Kingsthorpe 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

Smoking issue not over by a long shot

What's this?

Now the Region is considering implementing a Halton-wide smoking bylaw?

When and where is it all going to end?

On one hand, it seems like a ridiculous direction to go in since the municipalities have been putting so much time and energy into establishing their bylaws.

On the other hand, having different bylaws in each municipality so close together doesn't seem to make a lot of sense — in the interest of fairness, as bar and restaurant owners will attest to.

But even if the Region implements a Halton-wide smoking bylaw, will that really solve the problem?

What if differing bylaws in neighbouring regions prove to promote unfairness to bar and restaurant operators in Halton, or vice-versus?

How far will it go? Will there be a call for a province-wide smoking law.

The issue is complicated. It involves so many perspectives including those of health, personal freedom and the rights of entrepreneurs to do business.

It's going to be a while yet before it's all worked out.

So far, my time here has been quite an experience

What it is about smaller towns that appeals to me so strongly, I've yet to determine.

Without sounding too cliché, perhaps it's the slower pace of life.

Whether it's actually true that Milton residents take the time to appreciate life's small pleasures, or it's an illusion created simply from the quaint downtown core and historic homes, I'm not sure. But it's a suspension of disbelief in which I'm more than willing to indulge.

I love the thought of a town of residents who know what's important in life, and who realize that although development for tomorrow is important, so is being content with what we have today.

For someone who has often wished she could be transported back to that proverbial gentler time, Milton has provided me with the perfect setting to satisfy my overly-active imagination.

Milton is a community for which I'm proud to serve as the new Champion reporter, covering the police and hospital beats, among others.

For a big city girl — if Brampton can be considered a big city — coming from a big city newspaper, my next statement might sound surprising.

But it's true. These past two weeks, my first as the new Champion reporter, have been extremely exciting.

Part of it, of course, is the thrill of the unknown revealing itself each day.

There's nothing like the first week in new territory.

I've chosen my favourite lunch time cafe, my favourite second-hand bookstore — a hallmark of any smallish town — as well as my favourite century home and country store.

Milton residents have a town to be proud of.



OUR READERS WRITE

Literacy North Halton outreach coordinator says thanks to all who helped with event

Dear Editor:

On behalf of Literacy North Halton, I would like to thank the Milton Public Library, Martin Street Public School, Milton Community Nursery School and Mayor Gord Krantz for their support at the recent Family Literacy Day activities in Milton.

It was wonderful to see adults and children at the Milton Public Library and Martin Street Public School taking time out to enjoy the wonder of reading aloud. Reading just 15 minutes a day will contribute so much toward a child's

learning skills and will in turn improve their chances for success.

During Family Literacy Day, the Milton Public Library also began providing helpful information for adults who struggle to read to their children. A number of easy-to-read books have been identified as a starting point for these adults.

Also on this day, children in a combined Junior and Senior Kindergarten class at Martin Street Public School spent an enjoyable hour listening and responding to Mayor Gord Krantz while he read. They were thrilled to spend such a

special time with such a well-known person, captured so beautifully in last Friday's Champion by photographer Graham Paine.

As an adult literacy program, we at Literacy North Halton often hear from students who were seldom read to as children. By drawing attention to the obvious benefits of families reading together, we can all help to eradicate low adult literacy in our community. Thank you Milton, for all your help.

Wendy Somerville,
Outreach coordinator
Literacy North Halton

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



Around town

with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

And from what I've seen so far chatting with people, they are.

There are the store owners who realize Milton's small town atmosphere has provided the ideal spot for their family-run toy store.

There are the members of Conservation Halton who seem to work so hard at protecting the lands they've come to love.

There are the cafe-sitters who speak with pride about the horses they keep on their property, an opportunity that only a smallish town with a rural setting could provide.

Pride of ownership seeps from every century home I pass on my way to work. The historic plaques on the fronts of many of these homes speak volumes about the attitudes of the people who live inside.

It's a subtle way of celebrating the past while anticipating the future.

Towns that are quickly developing and yet still manage to retain that small-town atmosphere are few and far between.

Milton is one of them.

From the perspective of a lowly outsider, Milton is a gem that dots Ontario's crown.