

# Rural councillors seeking action to fight littering

By **JASON MISNER**  
*The Champion*

Ward 3 Councillor Ken Keates says he has seen on more than one occasion motorists chucking garbage out their windows, seemingly without a care in the world.

Ditches along various rural side roads in Nassagaweya, he said, are lined with coffee cups, fast food bags and even old tires.

He's had enough of the filth, and so has his counterpart Ward 3 Councillor Barry Lee.

Mr. Lee has asked Town staff to look into why it turned down a request from Mississauga to take part in its anti-litter program, and why it didn't come before council for consideration. Seventeen municipalities from the Greater Toronto Area have accepted to join the program, including Burlington, Halton Hills and Oakville.

Mr. Lee thinks such a program might help in stressing to people the importance of keeping our environment clean, and is worth pursuing.

"I think anything we can look into and share our activities and share their expertise is something we shouldn't ignore," he said in an interview after the May 12 community services committee meeting.

Staff will report back to councillors about what happened and why.

It wasn't clear when that will happen.

There is no official Town of Milton litter campaign.

Mr. Lee said garbage has been problematic in the rural areas for years and said if it wasn't for the die-hard commitment of community groups picking up trash, the mess would be intolerable.

He said numerous groups took part in a spring clean-up day recently and one group, the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee, picked up 326 tires, a number that disgusts him.

To send a message, he and Mr. Keates want to see the fines dramatically increased to deter littering, not just in the rural areas, but throughout Milton. The current fine in town is \$103.75. The maximum fine is \$5,000 based upon a conviction in provincial court.

"It's another tool we can use," Mr. Keates said in an interview.

He also said he'd like to see signs at the different entrances into Milton stating that littering is an offence and the charge.

Mr. Keates said the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee collected a record amount of garbage this spring, amounting to filling five huge industrial garbage bins.

The committee will be meeting

Tuesday morning to discuss the issue of garbage and what can be done to eliminate it, Mr. Keates said. The hope is to bring recommendations to council in the near future for their consideration, he noted.

Mayor Gord Krantz said his front property is constantly littered with garbage, most of it blowing across the street from Victoria Park.

In fact, the garbage can become so annoying, he said he sometimes walks to the park and collects the garbage before it finds its way onto his lawn.

One suggestion he has for people upset by litter bugs is to perhaps call the police with a licence plate number if they see someone chucking litter from a car.

"Maybe that might cure them," Mr. Krantz said.

He said he supports a Town initiative to decry litter. The staff report into the Mississauga anti-litter program, he said, would be a good starting point to see if something further needs to be done.

In Toronto, bylaw officers and some police officers held a litter blitz this week, one of several they plan to hold over the summer to catch litter bugs. The fine for littering there is \$130.

Jason Misner can be reached at [jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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