



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Stiffer penalties a must

It's disconcerting to learn that nearly two-thirds of the transport trucks police recently stopped on our highways for suspected safety infractions turned out to be unfit for the road.

The predominant equipment problems reported by police involved tires or brakes — vital components for keeping these huge rigs hauling tonnes of freight on the road and in control.

The good news is that these vehicles deemed unsafe to be on our highways have been pulled off the road. The bad news is that thousands of transport trucks travel this section of Hwy. 401 each day and this blitz was able to check just 85 over two days.

We wonder how many ticking time bombs on 18 wheels are still out there?

There's no questioning the importance of the transport industry to our daily lives. For commerce to thrive,

goods of all shapes and sizes must be able to travel between Ontario and the U.S. and across Canada's expanse each day. But at what cost?

Is the cross-border, long distance shipping of goods worth the lives that could be lost if even one transport truck ill-equipped for the road loses a tire or suffers brake failure at rush hour?

We applaud safety-conscious truckers who keep their equipment in good working order, but question if the punishment meted out to those who operate unsafe trucks is sufficient to put an end to this serious problem. Our major highways are congested enough without the added worry of unfit transport trucks lurking in our rearview mirrors.

Since larger scale enforcement of safety regulations doesn't seem practical, stiffer penalties may be the only sure way to deter the irresponsible operators in this essential industry.

Milton's quick growth presents many a challenge

A ruling by an Ontario Superior Court judge that Exxxotica doesn't have to move its store from its Bronte Street South location shouldn't really come as a shock to anyone.

Really, what else could have happened?

The decision I'm sure will ruffle some residents' feathers, mostly because Exxxotica sells adult videotapes, lingerie and sex toys.

But, as the judge's ruling points out, store owner Tony Wang is operating a legal retail business. There was nothing to suggest that where the store is or what it's selling is illegal.

I'm not going to rehash the history as to how and/or why Exxxotica opened up at Bronte Street South.

It was before my tenure at The Champion started. And besides, it's not relevant at this point. Here is what is relevant.

For all the great financial gains Milton, the

Town, makes from growth — be it development charges, an increased tax base, more residents who spend their money at local shops — there are challenges to face.

It might be fair to say that Miltonians didn't expect adult entertainment businesses to be such a pressing issue. But it is.

As a municipality grows, it will be inundated with requests for licences to operate all kinds of businesses.

They could include bars and restaurants or refreshment vehicles to service job construction sites, as homes in town pop up at a dizzying pace.

And even strip clubs.

Where there's demand, someone will want to supply it.

The Town will more and more start experiencing these kinds of pressures.

To illustrate my point, I've been of the opinion

MORE COLLECTOR BEER CANS...



CHRÉTIEN KING CAN

- The beer that made Shawinigan infamous
- Top seller since '93!
- Well past expiry date
- Plum Patronage appointment with every purchase!
- Non-returnable
- Banned in U.S.A.
- GST extra

EVES BUBBA

- Also known as "Harris Lite"
- Popular at corporate golf events!
- Vote in our upcoming Taste Test! (date to be announced)
- Comes with battery-powered cooler in case of blackouts
- Non-union made

MACKAY HALF-PINT

- New for 2003!
- Only half full
- Availability subject to Free Trade restrictions
- Official beer of the Progressive Conservative "Party"
- Comes with bonus can of David Orchard Cider!

NEASE, '03



OUR READERS WRITE

Hunter says he won't seek re-election, but adds that he has enjoyed his time on Milton council

Dear Editor:

I have announced this week that I will not be seeking a fourth term on council in the municipal election in November.

While my decision has not been easy, I believe that given my time commitments in my job as a venture capitalist, extensive travel and young family, now is the appropriate time to step down and allow others to bring fresh ideas and energy to the council table.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all taxpayers of the town of Milton for entrusting your faith in me to represent you. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to have served you.

I would also like to thank the many individuals that assisted with my three election campaigns, all of whom worked tirelessly to support me.

My efforts on behalf of all taxpayers would not have been possible without the continued support of my wife Sharon, my children Rachel and Adam and the rest of my family.

Over the past nine years, I've had many debates with my colleagues around the council table. While we didn't always agree on many issues, I still believe that Milton council functioned effectively to manage the affairs of this community.

And I'm happy to call many

council colleagues my friends.

I would also like to acknowledge Town staff, who always responded to my ideas and were open to supporting more innovative approaches to local government.

Over the past nine years, I've attempted to focus on the issues that mattered to you as taxpayers — fighting for lower taxes, economic development and pushing local government to function more like a business than a bureaucracy.

Thank you again for all your support. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to have represented you over the past nine years.

Wally Hunter,

Ward 4 town councillor



The big picture

with JASON MISNER

for some time now that Milton must hire more bylaw officers.

Two officers are currently devoted full-time to enforcing all the bylaws that exist in town.

Reports from the bylaw department released to town council clearly state that complaints are rising every year. It's causing staff to incur overtime to meet the demand.

The issue of hirings is usually part of the budget process to determine where money can and should be spent.

The point with the bylaw enforcement is that the more people that move into Milton, the greater the chances of complaints and certainly greater the need to enforce bylaws, like parking or property standards.

It's imperative for the Town to think long-term about the social implications of growth. Financial is only a part of it.

That process has started. Earlier this year, the Town passed legislation that will dictate where strip clubs and adult video stores can locate in Milton.

It might not have been a huge part of the thought-process a few years ago, but this kind of big-picture thinking is now crucial on all levels.