



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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the memories

Request from Zellers impossible to grant

We can't blame Zellers for asking town council to delay the opening of WalMart in Milton, however the right decision was made in turning down the request.

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, retail giant WalMart is looking to open a store as part of a super centre at Steeles Avenue and James Snow Parkway.

Monday night, Zellers, which has its own expansion plans, asked town council to push back WalMart's opening date to 2008 to give it more time to re-establish itself in the market place following renovations.

But in the spirit of free enterprise, it was an impossible request for the Town to grant. Mayor Gord Krantz summed it up best when he said, "You don't want to eliminate or restrict competition."

Heck, Zellers has at least two years to get ready.

We're confident both Zellers and WalMart can survive in the same market. We've seen it close by in Georgetown.

Zellers' advantage is that it has been established in the community for years and has many loyal customers who will continue to take advantage of every opportunity to build up their 'HBC Rewards'.

Right now, it's one of the few places people can shop in town on a Saturday night.

OUR READERS WRITE

Dogs not welcome patrons at market where there's food on display, says local resident

Dear Editor:

One of Milton's fine attractions is our Saturday morning Farmers' Market on Main Street.

It's a venue primarily for area residents to buy fresh produce, homemade baked goods, fresh meat and cheeses. Over the years the market has expanded to include other things. It's a place to meet your neighbours and chat while strolling down Main Street. It's a real community environment.

I used to really enjoy an early Saturday morning at the market, but by my own choice I've not attended

for the past few years.

Why? Because I don't appreciate the fact that more and more animals are being paraded down the street — visiting the food stalls while I'm there and barking, lunging, sniffing at the food and doing what nature dictates.

Owners of these animals attempt to control them, but the fact remains that even though it's an outdoor market there's still food on display. I'm confident animals wouldn't be welcomed at A&P or Loblaw's.

I've hesitated writing this letter in the past, but my resolve was rein-

forced as I was having a conversation with visitors from Wasaga Beach. They attended the market this past weekend and voiced the identical sentiments that I have. They'll never return to the market for this reason. Too bad for Milton.

I'm not against dogs — please don't think that. I just think that from a health and safety perspective, our Farmers' Market should be a 'no-animal zone'. I bet the market vendors could provide an interesting perspective on this topic as well.

Ed Lawrence
Randall Crescent

Fax all your letters to (905) 878-4943, or e-mail them to miltomed@haltonsearch.com.

Watch your back — those nasty insects are sneaky

The other night, I was outdoors late, first walking my dog and then working diligently sprucing up the planters on my front porch and back deck in preparation for company I was having the next day.

It was a beautiful summer evening. It was hot, but a nice breeze made the temperature enjoyable. It was cool enough that I was comfortable wearing pants.

And what made it even more pleasant was there seemed to be no mosquitoes in sight. I wasn't swatting or scratching — it was sheer joy.

And it almost lasted the whole evening, too.

Wouldn't you know it, I was working on pruning the flowers in the last planter when suddenly I came under attack.

I felt an intense need to scratch the back of my right leg, then my left and then the front of my right leg. I was being eaten alive!

I gave up the work for the night and went inside.

As I was applying my insect bite ointment to try to stop the itching, all I could think was, oh no the West Nile!

Soon I'll be getting the fever, headache, muscle aches and a rash! Then I'd be admitted into hospital with encephalitis and meningitis! I had one foot in the grave!

Okay, I didn't really over-react like that, but I have to admit a West Nile virus infection crossed my mind.

It was probably a natural reaction given all the attention West Nile has received.

In reality, though, the fact is most people who get infected with the virus don't get sick.

Those most at risk of severe illness and death are the elderly. I'm only 37.

More precisely, according to the Halton Region



From the editor's desk
with **KAREN SMITH**

Health Department, of those who are infected, 80 per cent have no symptoms and about only 20 per cent get the West Nile fever, which consists of fever, headache, muscle aches and a rash.

The most serious illnesses are encephalitis and meningitis, which occur in one in 150 infections. There's no specific treatment and no vaccine against West Nile virus.

In Halton last year, 59 people were confirmed to have the West Nile virus, but none died.

I'm most worried about my parents, who are senior citizens, and my grandmother, who's 89, contracting the virus.

But I did decide that I hadn't been careful enough in my own mosquito bite prevention. It's better safe than sorry, no matter what your age.

While I had been thorough in changing the water in my birdbath every few days and was wearing pants that night, I hadn't used any insect repellent.

And that's one of the first things on the list of West Nile prevention tips — use an insect repellent that contains DEET. Other recommendations include wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks and shoes when outdoors in the evening or early morning.

Fight the bite, but don't panic.