



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Voters might reject political high jinks

The e-mail sent by mayoral candidate Rick Malboeuf to Mayor Gord Krantz is a tough one to understand.

If Mr. Malboeuf is as confident as he says he is about winning the race, why bother sending such correspondence?

He said it wasn't about securing an election victory, but was merely his attempt to spare a fellow politician the embarrassment of having to face impending allegations that could tarnish his 30-year career.

But instead the e-mail has tarnished what could have been an interesting election and has made a mockery of it.

That's because it represents so many things people find wrong with politics. It represents one of the reasons municipal voter turnout is so painfully low.

People often look at politicians with raised eyebrows, sometimes questioning just who it is they represent. An e-mail urging a candidate to drop out of an election only harms the democratic process and worsens the reputation of politicians everywhere.

It's tough enough for people in elected office to get the public to trust them and to make them feel they're a part of a democratic society.

Surely Mr. Malboeuf cares about Milton and has ideas on how to make the town better. But his e-mail did the exact opposite.

New sports centre, sign included, just the ticket

Call it a sign of Milton's growth.

Contrary to recent criticism of the Milton Sports Centre's eight-foot high letter signage, I think it's one of the best features of the new multi-faceted facility.

Much of the negativity — I imagine — surrounds the fact that the sign reads backwards when driving westbound on Derry Road. Yes it's a little distracting right now, but that's only because the landscaping to cover the back of the sign hasn't yet been put in place.

Once that happens, the trying-to-read-backwards frustration that's no doubt been gripping many motorists will dissipate.

And as the Town of Milton's Jennifer Reynolds pointed out during a recent tour of the centre's initial phase, an additional electronic pole sign will soon be erected at the corner of Derry Road and Santa Maria Boulevard. So if the Milton

Sports Centre doesn't grab your attention with one sign, it'll get you with the other.

Inside, the new twin rinks boast plenty of viewing capacity — despite what many may still believe. Two hundred and fifty seats per hockey pad doesn't seem like that much, but one has to remember that these rinks were designed for community-based use — not high-profile teams like the Jr. A IceHawks.

There may be the odd time — likely during the late stages of a tournament or playoff run — when one of the new pads is overcrowded, but those situations will be quite rare.

Trust me, I've been around hockey arenas enough to know that even in a much bigger community like Oakville or Burlington, you can count on one hand the number of times in a season that a rep hockey team's fan-base exceeds 250. And when it does, there's lobby and team-



with STEVE LeBLANC

room viewing at the new centre to bridge the gap.

About the only thing I'm not wild about is the actual name. But then my opinion on this matter is based on thinking of the Milton Sports Centre as merely a hockey arena, and not as the full-scale sports facility that it soon will be.

Ms Reynolds was quite adamant about that point, and I can respect that.

assessment (EA) process is currently underway.

The September 16 article mistakenly reports that the EA is complete. The targeted date of completion is December 2003.

The EA must be completed and approved before the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) will allow the rated capacity of the plant to be increased to 18,500 m3/d.

Halton Region is seeking input from residents about the disinfection upgrade at an open house at the Lions Club Hall on Thompson Road in Milton from 5 to 7 p.m. October 22.

This session is part of the EA process. The first public informa-

tion session on this issue was held in Milton in June.

With regard to the upgrade of the bio-solids handling system, the work is scheduled to begin later this year or early in 2004.

We thank The Champion for coverage of these issues and encourage interested residents to participate in our open house regarding the disinfection system October 22.

For more information, call Halton Region at (905) 825-6000, or toll free at 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866).

Ric Robertshaw, P.Eng.,
Director of environmental services
Region of Halton

OUR READERS WRITE

Champion article on waste study confused two issues, explains Region's director of environmental services

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter with regard to an article that appeared in the September 16 Champion.

In the article entitled 'Town's sewage plant can take more waste: study', I believe there are a number of points that need to be clarified about the current upgrades proposed for Milton's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The article seems to confuse two issues, specifically the upgrade to the disinfection system and the \$1.4-million upgrade to the bio-solids handling system at the plant.

With regard to the upgrade to the disinfection system, it's important to note that an environmental

assessment (EA) process is currently underway.

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In fact it raises another thought on how to further enhance the new building.

Since it'll be the focal point of a massive sports site, perhaps it's the ideal venue for a Milton Sports Hall (or Wall) of Fame. Other towns I've visited have that kind of tribute to their athletic standouts, and we've got enough of those to make an impressive display at the new facility — one that could really jazz up its interior.

I figure the south-end lobby would be best suited for this, and annual induction ceremonies could possibly be held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce's Sports Celebrity Dinner and Auction. Anyone wishing to get on board with this idea can give me a ring.

As far as I'm concerned, we've now got a great sports facility that's only missing a crowning touch — one that would permanently publicize Milton's sporting successes.