



# COMMENT



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## Future in your hands

In 10 days, Milton residents will be able to have their say about any local issues they're concerned with.

Traditionally, to voters, municipal elections have all the appeal of a double root canal without the freezing. That's somewhat surprising, given the fact the municipal level of government is, or should be, the one closest to the people.

Got a problem with your road? Call your local councillor.

Upset with the transportation provided by your school board? Call your trustee.

Need a blue box? Call the region.

Want to complain about the pace of development? Call the mayor.

These elected officials are, or at least should be, the first person to handle your concerns.

Historically though, voter turnout for municipal elections is low.

They're held in the middle of fall when weather can be unpredictable and voters often use any excuse to not cast their ballots.

However it's the one opportunity every three years voters can let their opinions be known.

We strongly encourage you to make an informed choice and believe that you forfeit your right to complain if you decide to abstain from the voting process.

We can't stress enough the importance for voters to know the issues and where their candidates stand on them. Our town will face many serious challenges in the coming years.

The direction and face of council could potentially be altered greatly in this election and it is up to you — the voter — to separate the grandstanders, egomaniacs, radicals and uninformed from the candidates who have the town's best interests at heart and can offer reasoned opinions, rational arguments and solid leadership.

Milton deserves no less, but on November 10 its future is in your hands. We ask only that you choose wisely.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Main Street land should be protected, says reader

Dear Editor:

The lead-up to the municipal election is a good time to discuss the future shape of Milton.

The proposed 500-unit subdivision on Main Street west of the LCBO is a key issue.

This land is located past the railway overpass toward Tremaine Road. It consists of a meadow, horse pasture and a few homes and farms that are a part of Milton's rural character and natural environment.

Milton has designated enough land for 20 years of residential development. It would be profoundly sad and single-minded to put yet another subdivision in the shadow of the escarpment.

The developer and our outgoing town council have taken us on a path that would make this land part of the Milton urban area.

As far as I know, council made a decision to support this development at a provincial hearing three years ago. Since that decision, our

mayor and various councillors have said that they would make a different choice if they had an opportunity to do it over again. Our next council has a chance to take a new position when the matter comes back before the Ontario Consolidated Joint Board.

During this election period, specific matters such as these call for clear declarations of intent from candidates asking to represent us.

**Chris Myers**  
Childs Drive

### Reader says that Malboeuf's e-mail was low-level politics

Dear Editor:

If I ever needed confirmation as to why I wouldn't vote for Rick Malboeuf for mayor, he has certainly provided good reason with the preposterous e-mail that he alleges he sent to the current mayor as a friend offering advice.

Perhaps the next time he contemplates pulling this sort of stunt he should take a course in public relations 101. Milton doesn't deserve, and should never condone, this sort of low-level politics.

**John McDonald**  
Millside Drive

## Eco-Tech way of thinking hopefully just the start

Now that's what I'm talking about.

The concept of the Eco-Tech Village project, that is.

As many probably know by now — and for those that don't, that's a real shame — the Town is moving ever so closely to seeing the construction of a unique environmentally-sustainable subdivision.

Think of it as development on a diet.

It calls for ways to use less energy and reduce waste as well as encourage transit with less dependency on the automobile.

Unlike anything else that has been done, it will pool these targets into one planned area. Also, the Town has engaged in a wind study that could eventually see wind turbines generating clean and affordable power.

Bear in mind, Mattamy Homes will only build

the subdivision if it feels it can attract willing home-buyers.

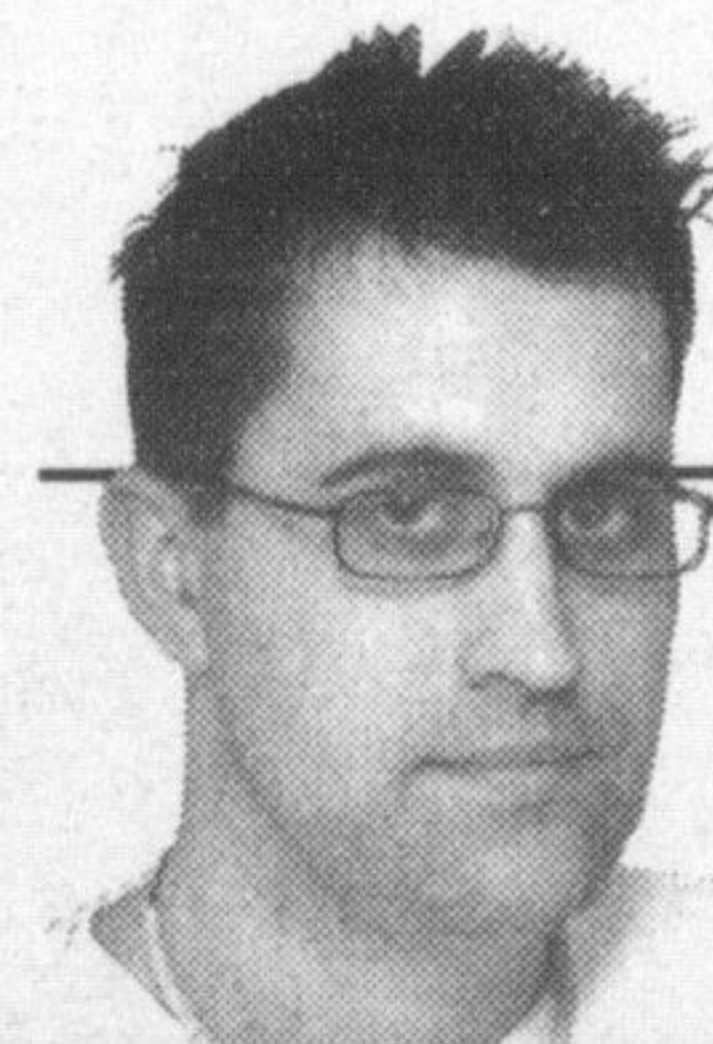
I'm desperately hoping it does.

This is the kind of progressive thinking that separates good municipalities from great ones. Even if the plan proves fruitful but is difficult to mass-market, at least something has been attempted — something has been accomplished.

The Eco-tech concept brings me to my wish today.

As all of you should know by now, there will be a municipal election November 10. You eligible voters out there must cast your ballot. I don't have to remind you about the gratitude and debt we should have for living in a democratic society.

That said, the next council — which will have some new faces — will face a daunting task of



### The Big Picture

with JASON MISNER

steering Milton through, what I believe, will be one of the most telling times of its existence.

Development has been made an issue in some of the all-candidates meetings held of late.

It will certainly drive many agendas, during the election and throughout the next three years of

political office for those voted in.

But I hope, aside from issues like that, that council members remember what Eco-Tech is striving to do. It's striving to create new ideas, a new way of thinking.

Is it flawless? Probably not.

But it's a kind of mentality that's outside of the box. That's what I'm hoping to see from Milton's next council in dealing with the smallest of issues, let alone the big ones.

Whether a candidate is campaigning on controlling development, dealing with parking woes or tightening government spending, provide unique solutions.

And sink your teeth into those solutions.

Look around, see what others have done and better that, better yourself and better this town.

Doesn't Milton deserve it?