

# High school bomb threat turns out to be false alarm

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
*The Champion*

Police searched the three E.C. Drury schools as well as the Milton GO Transit station after receiving a bomb threat Monday morning.

Det. Brian Smith of Halton Regional Police said the threat was received by Peel Regional Police at about 10:20 a.m.

"We sent officers to both locations and nothing was found," Det. Smith said.

He said teachers conducted a search of E.C. Drury High School on Ontario Street plus the elementary and secondary E.C. Drury schools for the deaf accompanied by plainclothed officers.

Nancy Syer, principal of E.C. Drury High School, said police told her the threat was very vague.

She said she met with police and the three schools on the campus to discuss the danger level of the threat, and whether students should

be evacuated.

"Police suggested it was a low-level threat," she said, adding students weren't evacuated.

Ms Syer said it was important to keep students' safety paramount, while not allowing a prankster to get the attention he or she wanted.

"You have to balance safety versus the notion of harassment. It's a tough call," she said, adding that if every call was treated as a high-risk call even without proof of danger, pranksters would make threats more often.

"You can imagine a threat in the middle of exams," she said.

Any potential for danger seemed to have disappeared by about 2:30 p.m., Ms Syer said. Shortly afterward, students were informed of the incident.

"We told them there was a bomb threat and the school was searched with police, and that they concluded there was nothing suspicious,"

Ms Syer said.

Students were sent home with letters to their parents, explaining what had happened.

Bomb threats to schools certainly aren't unheard of, Ms Syer said. In fact, it happened at a Halton school she used to work at.

"It's not unusual," she said.

Marnie Denton, spokesperson for the Halton District School Board, said as soon as the threat was received, the school implemented its action plan with police for emergencies such as this one.

She said students weren't evacuated because there were no signs of an actual threat to their safety.

"According to our protocol, a building isn't evacuated until there's a suspicious package or something that could be a bomb is found," Ms Denton said.

*Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.*

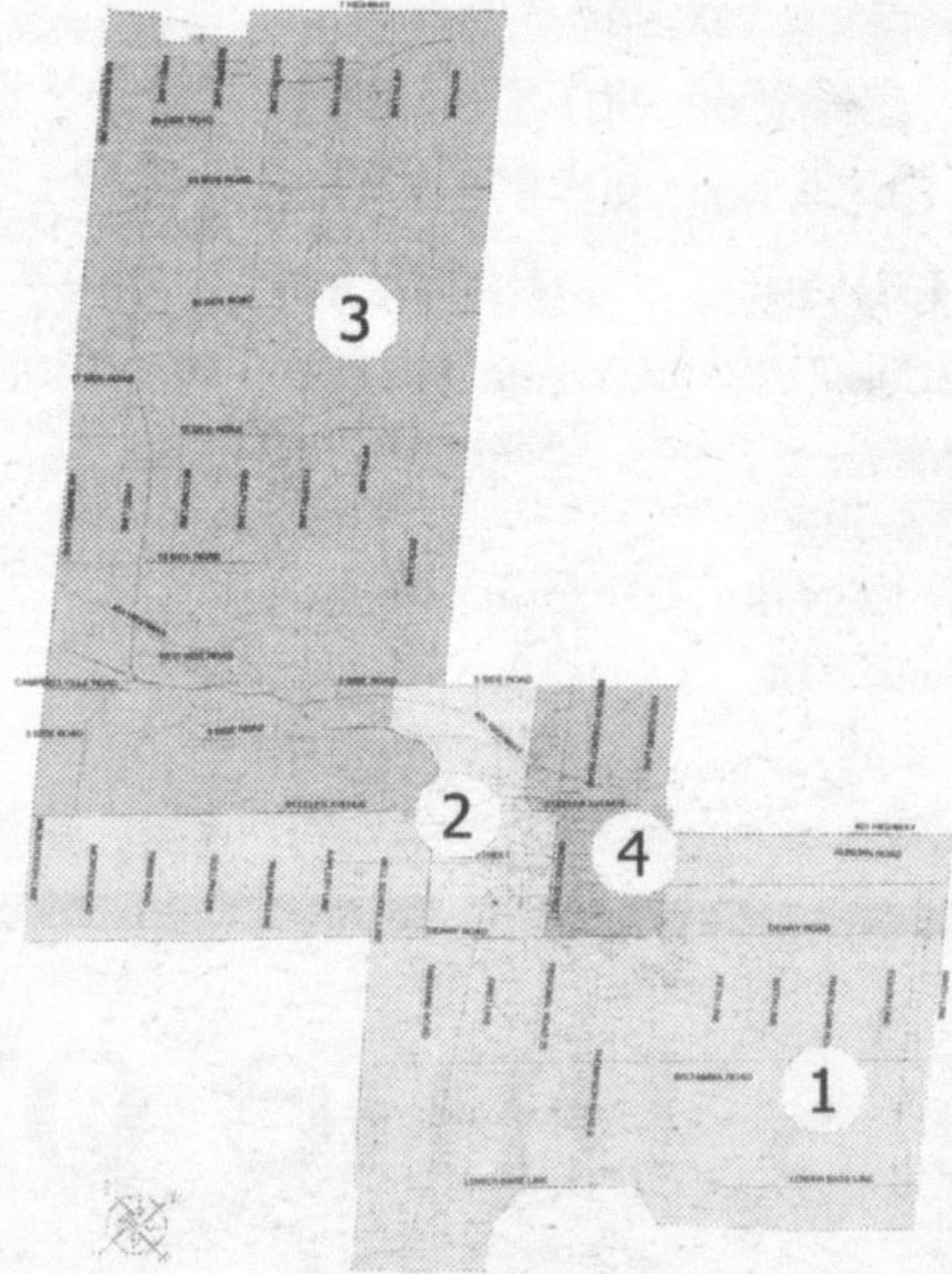
## TALK of the TOWN

A monthly feature from the Town of Milton

### A new Council for a new Term

On December 1, 2003 oaths of office were administered by her Honour Louise M. Scisizzi, Justice of the Peace. We are pleased to introduce the 2003-2006 Milton Council as follows:

- Mayor Gord Krantz
  - Councillor Richard Day (Ward 1)
  - Councillor Brian Penman (Ward 1)
  - Councillor Barry Lee (Wards 1 and 3)
  - Councillor Mike Boughton (Ward 2)
  - Councillor Mark Curtis (Ward 2)
  - Councillor Ron Furik (Wards 2 and 4)
  - Councillor Cindy Lunau (Ward 3)
  - Councillor Jan Mowbray (Ward 3)
  - Councillor John Challinor II (Ward 4)
  - Councillor Wendy Schau (Ward 4)
- Mayor Gord Krantz, Councillors Ron Furik and Barry Lee are also Councillors for the Regional Municipality of Halton.



#### Meeting Schedule

Milton Council holds its regular meeting once a month in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall commencing at 7:30 p.m.

The Community Services Standing Committee of Council and the Administration and Planning Committee of Council hold regular meetings once a month in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Persons wishing to address Committee or Council are required to provide written notice to the Town Clerk by the Thursday prior to the Committee/Council meeting.

For the schedule of meetings or a copy of the agenda, please contact the Town Clerk's Office or visit the Town's web site at [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca).

#### New Year's Meet and Greet

Your family is invited to join Mayor Krantz and Members of Council at the Annual New Year's Day Levee on January 1, 2004 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Town Hall, sponsored by the Milton Historical Society.

#### Hours for the Holiday Season

Please note that the Municipal Offices, the Planning & Development Annex, the Engineering Services Department, the Milton Senior's Centre, and the administration for Fire Department will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th, 2003 until Thursday, January 1st, 2004 inclusive. For any Town of Milton Operational Service Emergency during this time please contact 905-878-7141.

For information on other facility schedules and related programs please contact the appropriate facility, noted below.

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Leisure Centre             | 905-878-7946            |
| John Tonelli Sports Centre | 905-878-2671            |
| Milton Memorial Arena      | 905-878-4163            |
| Milton Sports Centre       | 905-878-7252, Ext. 2602 |

#### New Year's Eve Bell Ringing Tradition

Gather around the historic bell at 11:45 p.m. in Victoria Park, Downtown Milton on December 31, 2003 and join Mayor Krantz in welcoming 2004.

#### Registering for winter recreation programs?

Use Milton Online Registrations starting December 13th (non-residents: December 17th)



Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. on December 13th (non-residents: December 17th). Use Milton Online Registrations to register on the Internet or by touch-tone telephone. Or, register by mail, fax or in-person. For complete details, see your Town of Milton Fall & Winter Community Services Guide, visit [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca) or call 905-878-7252, ext. 2440.

For additional information, call our recreation help desk at 905-878-7252, ext. 2440 or send an e-mail to [recreation@milton.ca](mailto:recreation@milton.ca)

#### NEED INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER TOWN SERVICES?

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