

# Comment

## Wrong message sent

It's not news that youth crime has increased in recent years. Younger and younger, children are being charged with violent criminal acts as gangs and guns become more prevalent.

Some youngsters — even at the tender age of 16 or 17 — have become career criminals.

That said, one can only wonder what the provincial Liberals were thinking when they announced recently that they intended to transfer responsibility for violent young offenders from the corrections ministry to the newly-created children's ministry.

Despite the fact police officials — the ones who have to deal with these kids first-hand — denounced the move, Children Services Minister Marie Bountrogianni defended the switch.

"The reason why the young offenders, as a program, is coming over to

the ministry of children is so we can look at it more holistically."

Well, that sounds warm and fuzzy doesn't it?

We tend to agree with Toronto Police Association president Rick McIntosh who says the move sends the wrong message to violent young offenders that they will be treated in a more lenient way.

"We want to see the system get tough on violent offenders," he said. "Victims have a right to justice. If a 16-year-old shoots somebody the victim is no less dead."

Certainly, for young offenders who have minor brushes with the law the emphasis should be on rehabilitation, but for those who have shown a repeated predilection to violent criminal behaviour punishment must come first.

And punishment won't be found within the children's ministry.



## Our Readers Write

### Takeover of garbage pick-up a bad idea: reader

Dear Editor:

I know that other rural residents have found much less costly, yet responsible, ways of disposing of their garbage, but for many years I've had good service from a private contractor at a current rate of about \$470 per year.

As far as I know, my contractor doesn't live in Rosedale, drive a Rolls Royce or have a winter home in Spain. And yet the Region will take over this service for an average increase of \$153 on rural taxes.

But if it looks too good to be true, it probably isn't true.

As I understand, a large part of a con-

tractor's cost is tippage — the charge at the landfill site operated by the Region.

I can only suppose that the Region hasn't included tippage charges in calculating the tax increase for rural garbage collection, in which case these costs would have to be covered by a general increase in regional tax rates.

So far I've been unable to find anyone in Milton or with the Region who can, or will, provide details of this supposed saving.

I believe takeover of rural garbage collection by the Region is a bad move.

**Gary Ellis**  
Regional Road 2

### Reader says co-operation is needed to find better solution to rural garbage collection

Dear Editor:

There's no doubt that there's a growing squabble in regard to Milton council's decision to approve rural garbage pick-up.

I believe a hurried decision was made, for whatever reasons, and it was made without the opportunity to obtain adequate rural public input.

Few can now argue that there's a growing 'no versus yes' squabble situation happening, and it's close to erupting.

Proactive rural waste management practices are at risk while taxes are projected to increase. Something's wrong with this situation — don't you agree?

I'm asking Milton council and all

area residents to consider the concept that within any squabble there are many truths.

With the opportunity of improving rural waste management practices and/or implementing rural garbage pick-up, there are many opportune avenues to consider. We should hear them all.

Our rural garbage pick-up squabble situation can be simply resolved if council allowed for the revisiting and reviewing of all the truths, rural residents' desires and not just those of the Region or the Town.

Simply put, there should be no win/lose situation arriving out of the decision, but rather — as I'm sure council had intended — a 'by the people for the people' palatable

win/win solution.

Council could activate a public taskforce to qualify and quantify all of the rural desires and then identify palatable win/win solutions that are fair to all, cost effective to all and exceed environmental stewardship requirements.

Once rural public input — including all views, desires and solutions — is thoroughly captured, council can make a much more informed and more effective win/win decision that would have the support of the rural masses.

Let's give our council the support and time needed to effectively resolve this situation.

**Bob Beyette**  
Campbellville

You can have your say with a letter to the editor. Fax letters to (905) 878-4943, or e-mail to [miltone@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltone@haltonsearch.com).

## The Canadian Champion

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

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Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

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**Ian Oliver** Publisher  
**Neil Oliver** Associate Publisher  
**Jill Davis** Editor-in-Chief  
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## Pud

by Steve Nease

