

Comment

Police budget shows funding needs fixing

The 2004 Halton Regional Police budget recently approved by the police services board appears to be illuminating a need for other revenue sources to help regional taxpayers.

Police Chief Ean Algar said the \$69.8 million budget was the most challenging to date. There's no reason not to believe him.

The majority of the police budget addresses salaries and that will always be an issue, which gets us to this point.

Since policing is such an essential service, it's unlikely anyone would lobby to cut safety-related programs simply to save money.

So we urge politicians and the public to keep pressing their local MP or MPP to get their respective governments to provide other funding sources to accommodate budgets.

Gas taxes and income taxes have been suggested as possible funding avenues.

We must beat this drum.

To ask taxpayers to shell out more of their hard-earned dollars year after year to keep budgets afloat is a losing battle.

Municipalities need funding alternatives not today, not tomorrow but yesterday.



Our Readers Write

Reader says we should beware of thieves

Dear Editor:

My wife, who's an avid user of the Milton Leisure Centre, heard a woman's wallet was stolen from a locker while she was swimming. Her answer was to lock her wallet in the car.

Recently after a fitness class, she went to the bank and noticed a credit card was missing. She later discovered that five cards were missing, as well as \$100.

Fortunately, we had made a list of phone numbers of the credit card companies and she called the companies before noon. In that time, \$1,800 was charged to each of two cards, and \$3,000 was charged to another.

There was no sign of forced entry to the car, so the alarm wasn't activated. How that happened we can only speculate. These auto devices for locking and unlocking aren't infallible.

There's no noise if you accidentally unlock your car, which is easy to do.

Maybe she grabbed the keys with her bag and the door unlocked, or maybe there was someone inside who took the keys and opened the vehicle.

I think it's a good possibility that someone was watching the parking lot.

Miltonians beware.

Bliss Flower
Milton

Man says thanks for firefighters' actions

Dear Editor:

I wish to thank the 60 firefighters who recently attended the fire at 808 Somerville Terrace.

Their professional work and dedication saved our family home from burning.

Thanks should also go out to our excellent neighbours across the street, who opened their home to us.

We watched as wave after wave of firefighters passed us by, with faces covered with masks entering the thick black smoke and then exit-

ing exhausted. All of us should be proud of our fire department.

So when you see the flashing red or green lights, pull over, stop and wish them a safe return.

Norman McIlwaine
Somerville Terrace

Rural garbage pick-up a good thing, says reader

Dear Editor:

After all the negative letters about garbage pick-up in rural Milton, I wanted to go on record to say that I'm delighted not to have to haul my garbage to the dump myself anymore.

I participated in the survey that was handed out and was pleased at the outcome.

It's my opinion that we should stop fussing about a

service long overdue — and now in place — and have our elected representatives spend their time and energy on improving our waste management.

If a city like Guelph can divert so much waste from its landfill, why can't Milton?

Let's get on with improving how we recycle.

Carol Warner
Milton

Reader says there's no need for rural garbage collection

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the January 20 letter by Bob Beyette, who says co-operation is needed to find better solutions to the rural

garbage situation.

The situation worked just fine as it was. There was definitely no need to start rural garbage collection. If it works, don't fix it.

Besides, rural garbage pick-up will only create more garbage and other problems.

Joe Wagner
Milton

E-mail your letters to the editor to miltomed@haltonsearch.com.

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by Steve Nease

