

# Comment

## Perception vs. reality

A common public perception is that politicians, as a whole, are a bunch of no-good-niks who fall somewhere on the likability scale between people who kick dogs and Osama bin Laden.

The truth is, many politicians are hard workers, putting in long hours simply to make their community a better place.

However, in recent days we have seen several cases where perception is reality and vice-versa.

Case in point #1: Ontario Finance Minister Greg Sorbara, a bigwig in the Liberal Party, learned back in December that a company he directed up until September was under investigation by the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC), an agency he oversaw as finance minister. Instead of stepping down as finance minister (as he should have), transferring responsibility of the OSC to another ministry or even telling his boss, Premier Dalton McGuinty, of the investigation, Sorbara kept mum about the investigation until the story broke.

To make matters worse, McGuinty is

staunchly defending Sorbara. Where's the credibility here?

Case in point #2: Former Toronto Police Services Board Chair Norm Gardner takes 5,700 rounds of police ammunition — paid for by the taxpayers of course — for his own use and sees nothing wrong with his actions.

Case in point #3: While not technically a politician, but one who knows how to play the political game and was a former aide to ex-PM Jean Chretien, former VIA Rail chair Jean Pelletier offers the worst example.

If it wasn't bad enough he oversaw one of the Crown corporations involved in the sponsorship scandal, Pelletier exacerbated the situation by degrading whistleblower Myriam Bedard as a "pitiful single mother" — a cruel, unjustified comment by an official entrusted with millions of public dollars. Thankfully, he was quickly fired.

Public officials have had better weeks, but something tell us we haven't heard the last of horror stories like these.



## Our Readers Write

### Help needed for abused woman: reader

Dear Editor:

I'm writing with the hope that someone in Milton can help a woman in need.

I'm writing on behalf of a woman who's currently living at the local women's shelter.

This woman has been told that as of tomorrow (March 10), she can no longer live at the shelter. She must either choose to move to another shelter or find her own place to live.

After leaving behind an abusive relationship two months ago, this woman has managed to find employment in Milton, which she won't be able to keep unless she can find somewhere else to

live in town.

After losing everything she had in leaving her home behind, the only thing she has left is her dog.

I'm asking someone in Milton with an empty basement apartment or room for rent that will allow a dog to reach out and help this woman get her life back on track.

If you can help and show what great neighbours Miltonians are, please call Joanne at (905) 878-5040.

I hope that someone reading this can help a woman in need.

**Christine McFadden  
Milton**

### Annual Mayor's Christian Prayer Breakfast was another major success, says organizer

Dear Editor:

I'd like to thank The Champion for the February 13 announcement article entitled 'Coren guest speaker', giving Milton advanced notice of the second annual Milton Mayor's Christian Prayer Breakfast.

As in the case of the first annual event, the second annual Milton Mayor's Christian Prayer Breakfast was another wonderful success — bigger and better than we had hoped for.

This year more than 240 people braved the early February morning weather to come to Rattlesnake Point Golf Club to enjoy a great breakfast and be challenged by Michael Coren.

More than 240 people on a Friday morning is remarkable, and more than 240 before 7 a.m. is even more astounding.

Werner DeFilla and his staff at Rattlesnake Point did a remarkable job once again.

Guests present included Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh, several town councillors, elected school trustees, superintendents, principals, teachers and administrators from both the Halton Catholic School Board and the Halton District School Board, and of course, our illustrious Mayor Gord Krantz.

Mr. Krantz, true to form as the honorary chair, greeted and enlightened us in his own inimitable way.

Mr. Coren, true to his billing, gave a provocative keynote address. People were truly moved by his challenge to the community of Milton.

This annual event — with more than 200 people last year and 240 this year — will hopefully continue to grow each year and maintain its role as a major Milton event.

Thank you to The Champion for giving Miltonians advanced notice of the affair and then having a reporter attend the proceedings. Thank you for making the community aware of such events.

**Bill MacKinnon, organizer  
Milton Mayor's Christian  
Prayer Breakfast**

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

### Pud

by Steve Nease



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Circulation: 905-878-5947

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