

More than one person involved: Manchisi

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the two missing men were familiar with "the drug subculture."

Gazing out the board room window, Mr. Manchisi said that might be true. He doesn't know.

"He's no saint," he said of his son, stressing most young people get in mishaps of some sort. "Whether he was selling drugs or taking them, who knows?"

It was the trouble his son seemed to be getting into that caused Mr. Manchisi to request that he move to Milton from Mississauga. He did this, along with his mother, just six or seven months before he went missing, Mr. Manchisi said.

Speculating about what could have happened, Mr. Manchisi said he thinks there's more than one person involved.

"My son was astute, smart. For someone to kill him, it would have had to be either with a gun or..." he said, his voice trailing off.

Although police told Mr. Manchisi not to take matters into his own hands, he said he did a lot of "running around", searching for information.

"It's my son. I knew the best person to look for him was me," he said simply.

As to the media coverage, Mr. Manchisi said he understands reporters have a job to do. But he said there should have been more coverage of the case when the situation looked more hopeful.

"I don't know why it's become all chaotic now."

Struggling to remain composed, Mr. Manchisi said he and his son used to enjoy travelling together. He said he remembers a 12-year-old Joseph pushing him around in a wheelchair after having back surgery. And he remembers how involved his son was with sports — soccer, in particular.

He was attending business classes at George Brown College, and wanted to work with his father in one of the family's businesses, like his older brother, Domenic.

As a businessman in Milton for more than 30 years, Mr. Manchisi said he's received a lot of community support. It still feels like the small town he moved into so long ago, he said.

Walking next door to Stecchino's, the restaurant he owns, Mr. Manchisi sat down in the smoking addition he built and lit a cigarette. When his cell phone began to ring, he let it ring, saying it was probably another reporter wanting to talk to him.

His wife of three years, Christine Manchisi, said the media coverage hasn't been all bad.

"To a certain extent, I think it's necessary. It helps the healing process. It's good for him (Mr. Manchisi) to talk," she said, adding, "We're just sort of numb."

Ms Manchisi is pregnant with the couple's first child together. If the doctors are right, it's a boy. He's due the first week of June. With Joseph Manchisi's 21st birthday falling on May 30, it's possible the two half-brothers could share the same birthday.

Ms Manchisi said she's concerned about the worrisome situation the newest Manchisi will be born into. She said she's clinging to the hope that her stepson will be found safe.

"I hope the new baby will be able to meet both brothers," she said quietly.

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Major roads widened

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transportation designation, land-use planning and environmental protection.

Residents were informed that various major roadways, like Tremaine and Derry roads and Steeles Avenue, would eventually be widened to four lanes.

A new local road, called Louis St. Laurent Avenue, would also be built as part of the urban expansion plan.

And, a Hwy. 401 interchange would be built at Tremaine Road as well lands would be zoned for commercial uses.

Included in the Sherwood Survey is the 500-unit residential development proposal from Central Milton Holdings Ltd. It's on hold because it's before a joint board hearing to determine if it gets approval.

The Eco-Tech Village, a proposed leading-edge environmentally-sustainable subdivision, is also included in the survey lands.

The two-hour open house was followed by a presentation and question-and-answer session. Residents at that time expressed concerns about traffic congestion, housing densities, protection of the Niagara Escarpment and groundwater, and the need for more schools to accommodate the influx of families anticipated to move to town.

"I don't see the need for all this development," said Victoria Street resident Gloria Smelko, who lives near the proposed Sherwood Survey. "We're looking for details. We're looking for more information. I don't see that."

Colin Best of Main Street West questioned the ability of both Halton school boards to build schools fast enough to

handle the growth, which he thinks could come quickly.

Town staff were asked if the proposal is affected by the provincial government's one-year moratorium on development in greenbelts. Mr. Iovio responded that it isn't because it's part of Milton's future urban boundary.

Ward 1 Councillor Rick Day was one of a number of politicians who attended the meeting. He told The Champion he thinks the plan is a "disaster."

Mr. Day, who wants growth to slow down in Milton, said the Sherwood plan risks undermining community spirit.

"I think it's an absolute disaster," he said. "It will mean the end of town spirit. It will mean traffic gridlock and (place) financial pressures on our mill rates. Small means friendlier, small means less gridlock."

Public comments can be submitted to the Town by April 19, either in writing or through e-mail. A statutory meeting on the draft plan will be held in May with the expectation it will go before town council for adoption in June.

Call the Town for more information at (905) 878-7211 or visit www.milton.ca.

The Sherwood Survey is the second of three urban expansion phases Town planners hope will help transform Milton into an inclusive community where residents can work, rest and play.

Development of the first phase, called the Bristol Survey, started four years ago. The third phase, called the Boyne Survey, south of town isn't expected to occur for about another 15 or so years.

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Talks continuing

Paper will still publish if workers strike

Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd., the parent company of The Champion, will be in a legal strike/lockout position at midnight tonight with the Communication Energy & Paperworkers Union – Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild.

The Guild represents editorial employees at this and some other papers in the Metroland chain.

"Talks continue today and Metroland will work toward a settlement," said company representative Brenda Biller, vice-president of human resources.

At The Champion, four of the 18 employees are represented by the Guild.

In the event of a strike, our newspaper will continue to publish.



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