

Interested parents urged to attend

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Although anyone is welcome to attend the meeting and there's no obligation, Mr. Hughes urges parents who want their children to attend a Christian school to attend.

Jeff Bergsma, and his wife, Sara, found themselves in the same position as the Hugheses. They knew they wanted their three kids to be taught in a Christian school, but since Milton doesn't have one, they decided to send them to John Knox in Oakville.

"I love Milton. I've been here for 20 years, and it offers everything except a Christian school," Mr. Bergsma said. "I've always felt Milton could support a Christian school."

He said it doesn't make sense that his two school-aged daughters should be at John Knox, taking coveted spots away from children who live in Oakville.

He added that not having a Christian school could deter potential residents from moving here.

Milton has two private schools — Hitherfield Preparatory School in Nassagaweya and Milton Heights Academy in Campbellville, but neither offers a Christian education.

Mr. Hughes said he doesn't doubt Milton Christian School will eventually exist. But the level of parental support will partly determine how quickly this happens.

"This is a participatory sport, not a spectator sport," he said.

So far, the community's response has been positive, Mr. Hughes said. The group has an active mailing list and has recently been distributing flyers. As well, it distributed a survey to churches and stores in the area asking parents if they were interested in a Christian education.

Forty to 50 surveys were returned, with those replying expressing a desire for a school with a convenient location and academic excellence.

Mayor Gord Krantz said he thinks it's beneficial for Milton parents to have as many options as possible regarding their children's education.

"From what I know of Christian schools, I think they're great," he said. "It gives families options with regards to the teaching their children receive."

Mr. Krantz said it's important that students are taught "the three Rs" in addition to Christian teaching, and he said he's sure this will be the case with Milton Christian School, should it continue moving forward.

"I have no issues with it at all," he said.

As far as Mr. Hughes is concerned, Milton Christian School will serve as a legacy.

"It will have a tremendous impact on Milton and the students who pass through its halls."

Mr. Hughes said he feels this is what God wants them to do so there's no turning back.

"We have a lot of work to do, and we're going to need a lot of help. But we believe in a great God who walks with us and before us. It's going to be a great adventure."

For more information, call Ellen Hughes at (905) 878-7529 or e-mail miltonchristian@sympatico.ca.

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

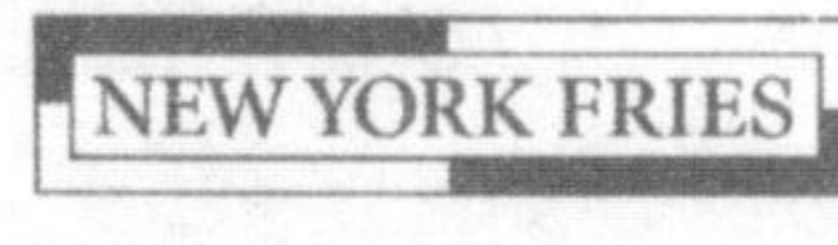


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