

# Smoking complaints quieting down, says Town

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By **JASON MISNER**  
The Champion

Town bylaw enforcement officer Roy Smith is hoping frequent smoking complaints are finally a thing of the past.

Rated at last week's town council meeting, a bylaw department information report, which documented calls for complaints for the first quarter of this year — January 1 to March 31 — reveals only two smoking complaints were made.

It builds on a trend that shows such complaints have been on the wane since the Town's smoking bylaw originally took effect in May, 2002. It's an indication residents appear to be adjusting to the bylaw, Mr. Smith said.

"We're getting more acceptance," he said, noting the early difficulty officers had in getting residents to comply with the bylaw. "It took a lot of staff time and it was controversial."

The smoking bylaw, revised last year, allows bars, restaurants, bingo halls and gaming facilities to open designated smoking rooms. Otherwise, smoking isn't permitted.

Statistics show a total of 46 complaints were logged in 2003 compared to 69 in 2002. The Town is on pace to receive eight smoking complaints based on this year's first quarter numbers.

Among the notable increases, miscellaneous complaints, such as calls about illegal posters on Town property like utility poles, were up 93 per cent this year versus the same time last year.

Zoning complaints were up 74 per cent this quarter. Mr. Smith

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said part of that spike is due to the reporting of derelict vehicles on homeowners' property as well as sign complaints.

Now that spring has arrived, Mr. Smith expects standing water complaints to pour in as residents start to protect themselves from being infected by the mosquito-borne West Nile virus.

Complaints about smelly dog feces on homeowners' property — exposed to all eyes and noses because the snow has melted —

will also come flooding in, he noted.

Meanwhile, the Town expects to hire a new bylaw officer by June, said Town clerk Troy McHarg. Currently there are three officers on staff. The salary for the position ranges between \$47,000 and \$55,000.

The extra staff will certainly come in handy as the Town continues to get more and more calls of complaints. This first quarter a total of 632 calls were made, a jump of 55 calls the same time last year.

Mr. Smith said with the population growing by a few thousand residents every year, it's only natural calls will rise as a result.

"This is the way it's going to be," he said, noting the new officer "will be a welcomed addition."

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## Students recognized

Ten Milton students were recognized at the Halton District School Board's Celebration of Student Excellence ceremony last night.

More than 500 parents, principals, trustees, teachers and school administrators took part in recognizing outstanding student achievement at the event, held at E.C. Drury High School.

In total, 88 elementary and secondary school students were honoured. The students exhibit exceptional qualities in at least two of these areas: academic, vocational and athletic fields, self-improvement, community work, citizenship and student leadership, or specific criteria that reflects the school's unique priorities.

"The Student Excellence evening allows an opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements in various endeavours," said Mary Chapin, chair of the Halton District School Board. "We have the future of our communities in our schools today, and we welcome this occasion to acknowledge their success."

The following are the elementary school award recipients: Josh Burr, Brookville P.S.; Matthew Carson, Chris Hadfield P.S.; Nickole LeVear, E.W. Foster P.S.; Emily Fuller, J.M. Denyes P.S.; Monika Low, Martin Street P.S.; Samantha Roche, Robert Baldwin P.S.; Chris Ackroyd, Sam Sherratt P.S.; and Kaitlin Shuvera, W.I. Dick P.S.

The award-winner from E.C. Drury High School is Carl Chan, and from Milton District High School it's Julia Pyper.

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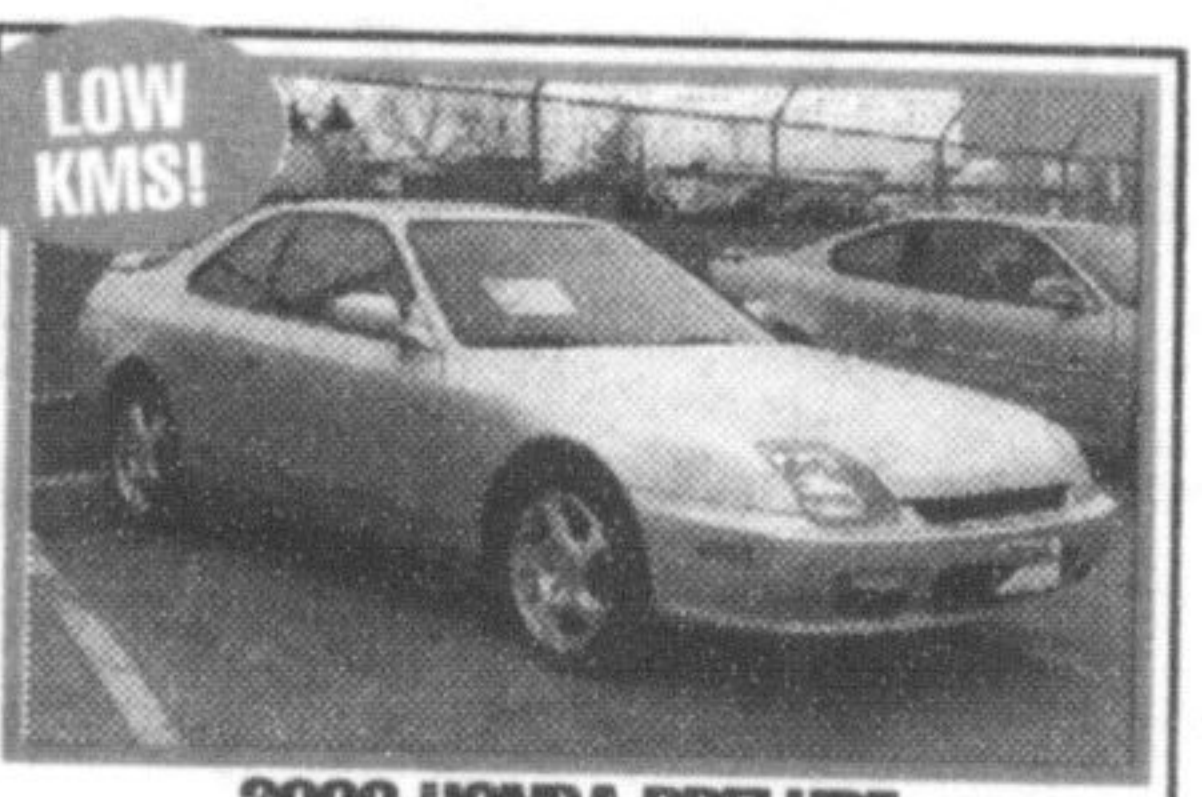
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