

# Comment

## Been there, done that

Pardon our French, but Prime Minister Paul Martin's campaign promise of \$9 billion more in health care funding feels an awful lot like pre-election déjà-vu.

A mere two months ago, Martin's health minister — Pierre Pettigrew — delivered a federal budget devoid of any significant new spending where the health of Canadians is concerned. The prime minister himself stated there was simply no new money for health care.

What has changed? An election call, for one.

Forgive our cynical outlook toward Martin's recent campaign promise, but Ontario residents have just "been there" and "done that" with Premier Dalton McGuinty and quite frankly we're still feeling a little bit shell-shocked over that Liberal about-face.

Martin is writing this \$9-billion prescription for what ails health care in our country — supposedly without the need for higher taxes or health care premiums like those just imposed by McGuinty.

What's that adage about something seeming too good to be true?

There's another side to the prime minister's sudden 180-degree spin on health care funding that seems, well, suspicious.

As depicted by Steve Nease in today's Champion cartoon, Martin was the finance minister/surgeon responsible for excising national health care spending over most of the last decade.

Offering to replace what he and Jean Chretien took from us in the first place takes a lot of guts — and nerve. Apparently elections have that kind of effect on our politicians.

It's hard to know how to interpret Martin's health-related campaign promises.

Is he simply trying to make voters — especially those in Quebec — forget about the sponsorship scandal and other federal Liberal faux pas, or, has he been borrowing election strategies from the example of Ontario's recently elected premier.

Either way, 'Dr. Martin' will have to forgive his 'patients' for taking a hard look at his offer of a cure-all and wondering if all we are really getting is a placebo.



## Our Readers Write

### Overseas trip amazing, say soccer players

Dear Editor:

It's been a few weeks now since our return from Manchester. What an amazing 10-day experience it was.

We three local members of the Milton Magic Under-17 girls rep soccer team were provided with the opportunity to experience top level international soccer competition through our involvement with the Bryst International program.

Although we lost handily to Manchester United, Tranmere and Wigan, and were edged by Manchester City — with Teia scoring her first international goal — we gained so much experience playing against the older and

highly-skilled teams.

Our trip also included a visit to the shrine of English soccer, Old Trafford Stadium, and the chance to take in two Premiere Division games. It was a great overall experience for both our soccer and personal development.

We'd like to thank The Champion for its coverage of our trip, as well as our parents, Magic coach Tony Maduri and Bryst International. We also gratefully acknowledge the support provided by the Town of Milton's Community Fund.

**Teia Clement, Shannon Johnston and Sara Mancini**  
Milton Magic

### Reader says that parking is a serious problem in new sub-division; issue not being addressed

Dear Editor:

I'm a resident of one of the new residential sub-divisions, south of Main Street near James Snow Parkway.

The homes on my street were designed to accommodate two vehicles per household — one in the garage and one in the driveway. Yet many of the households on my street either have no room in the garage, or have more than two vehicles. One in particular has five vehicles.

The result is that vehicles are parked on both sides of the street overnight. It's like trying to negotiate an obstacle course to get down the street.

If one meets an oncoming vehicle, one of the vehicles has to find a space to duck into in order to let the other vehicle pass.

I can't imagine what would happen if an emergency vehicle had to make its way down the street. The bylaw mandating a three-hour parking limit is clearly not being enforced.

I contacted both my councillor and the Town clerk to see what could be done about the situation. I was directed to Jon Pople, the Town's bylaw enforcement officer, who told me that there was no enforcement officer available overnight, and that patrols were only conducted during the day.

I was advised that I should contact the Halton Regional Police Communications Centre and the parking control officer will be dispatched if he's on duty and if not a police constable will be assigned.

I was also advised that the Town only has one parking officer and

each street in Milton can't be patrolled every day.

I find it hard to believe that in a town the size of Milton there's no bylaw enforcement officer outside of regular business hours, especially when most of the offences occur overnight.

I'm certain that the Halton Regional Police are kept quite busy without having to enforce parking bylaws.

In light of the expansion of the residential areas of Milton, I strongly believe that one parking officer is not enough to adequately enforce the bylaws.

This issue needs to be reviewed, and I urge the members of town council to act on this as soon as possible.

**Ronald Bee**  
Sherwood Road

E-mail your letters to the editor to [miltoned@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltoned@haltonsearch.com).

## The Canadian Champion

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

**Ian Oliver** Publisher  
**Neil Oliver** Associate Publisher  
**Jill Davis** Editor-in-Chief  
**Karen Smith** Managing Editor  
**Wendy McNab** Advertising Director  
**Tim Coles** Production Manager  
**Charlene Hall** Distribution Manager  
**Teri Casas** Office Manager

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Burlington Shopping News, City Parent, City of York Guardian, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Review, Forever Young, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Halton Business Times, Huronia Business Times, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga Business Times, Mississauga News, Napanee Guide, Nassagaweya News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product

### Pud

by Steve Nease

