

# Comment

## 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/Penatanguishene 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



## We're still deciding

Tuesday night's leadership debate did little to help us decide who should be leading this great country of ours. It was our hope that the performances of the party leaders would point us in the right direction. But we, like many voters, are still in the undecided category.

Cynicism has played a large role in the campaign thus far. Voters, so fed up with broken promises, rhetoric and persistent scandals, are left wondering why they should even bother casting a ballot. Their voices, they say, are never heard. That persistent thread of cynicism can be linked to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty. His signed election pledge to avoid raising taxes was obviously not worth the paper it was written on. This has left a bitter taste in the mouths of the electorate who were looking for real change when they ousted Premier Ernie Eves and the Conservatives.

As the final days of the federal campaign wind down, this newspaper will evaluate party platforms, individual candidates and their leader, and, of course, all those election promises.

It has long been a tradition for newspapers to select candidates — the person

whom we think will do the best job for our riding as well as the country. Even though we make a choice every election — whether it be municipal, provincial or federal — some readers seem genuinely surprised (others angry) that we print our opinion.

A future editorial will be based on how local candidates presented themselves at various events around the riding, input from the editorial staff who have interviewed and written about the candidates as well as how effective we think their leader will be for Canada.

Did the candidates answer all the questions directly or were they evasive? Did they make expensive promises that we know they won't be keeping? Will they represent the interests of their constituents in Ottawa? Can we trust them? What is their vision of Canada 10 years hence?

Our editorial won't tell you how to vote — only you can make that decision. However, we will take a stand and explain to you, our readers, the reasoning behind that choice.

This is an exciting time in our country's history. Make sure you are a part of it.

## Our Readers Write

### New sub-division resident agrees that lack of parking space is indeed a serious issue

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Ronald Bee's June 1 letter to the editor regarding parking problems in the new subdivisions.

I too am a resident of one of the new residential sub-divisions in Milton. Two nights a week my mother, who travels from out of town, stays overnight with us to help take care of our 15-month-old daughter and help alleviate the cost of daycare.

As a result, we park one car in the

garage, one car in the driveway and a third car on the street — since there's no more room in the driveway.

I don't know about the rest of you reading this paper, but after paying all of our taxes and putting gas in my car at 92 cents a litre I don't exactly have a lot of disposable income left to pay two parking tickets a week.

In my opinion, the builders and Town planners are too busy crowd-

ing as many houses as possible on as little space as possible, and aren't providing any common area for overnight parking.

If half my money didn't go toward paying all of my taxes and parking tickets, I might be able to afford a house with a bigger driveway.

I agree with Mr. Bee. This issue needs to be reviewed. This town needs to provide more parking, not more parking tickets.

**Rob Current**  
Gowling Terrace

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

## Summer can be a fun time, but a dangerous one too

Milton's youngsters are no doubt getting antsy as the final few days of school tick by.

It goes without saying that summer's an especially fun time of year for children and teens. But it bears mentioning that it can also be a particularly dangerous period for those who spend long hours on the Internet without parental supervision close at hand.

It's a depressing fact of life that a tool that's become so monumentally beneficial to the way we communicate and collect information has also opened up new worlds of opportunity for perverts and sexual predators.

But that's the harsh reality we live with these days. Anyone who believes otherwise need only look at the countless cases of Internet-oriented sex crimes and violence that fill our newspapers on almost a weekly basis. Recently, some of these stories have hit close to home — a little too close, I'm sure, for local parents.

Fortunately, Milton has a crusader of sorts

who's working to help parents Internet-proof their kids. Both a mother and locally-based DARE officer, Const. Wendy Moraghan recently earned a commendation for her Internet awareness program, which has been taught at many schools in Milton and across Halton.

Developed last fall, the program — one that's not yet available in all communities, but certainly should be — aims to hammer home just how easy it is to become a victim of on-line stalkers, and what can be done to prevent this.

The biggest problem, she stressed, is that many children are lulled into a false sense of security on MSN Messenger chatrooms, and consequently give out personal information — sometimes to undesirable receivers.

"They think they're talking to a friend and it's really a 45-year-old man," she said. "You should never give out information about yourself or agree to meet with anyone you meet on-line."

And as has been made all-too-painfully appar-



with STEVE LeBLANC

Up  
front

ent, predators know just who to target. To that end, young girls in particular should be careful when a chatroom acquaintance is a little too eager to dish out the flattery.

"It's often girls with low self-esteem that are the victims," noted Const. Moraghan.

She adds that parents should make sure computers are kept in plain view — as opposed to in a child's bedroom, where mom or dad can't monitor Internet activity — and think about limiting

the amount of time spent on-line.

She and her husband have an all-encompassing off switch in their home to prohibit Internet use after 11 p.m. — and try to discourage prolonged surfing. As she puts it, a computer shouldn't be a babysitter.

In speaking to Const. Moraghan earlier this week, it would seem the toughest part about combating acts of Internet sex crimes and violence is getting people — adults as well as children — to shed the idea that they're safe because they're at home. That's a notion we simply can't afford nowadays. Danger can strike anywhere, even in cyberspace.

So parents, please make sure your kids exercise extra caution when going on-line this summer.

In a very real way this means giving up a bit more of our innocence in order to safeguard our children. But then a little pessimism is — sadly enough — probably a healthy thing for today's parent.