

Comment

Promises, promises

As a whole, the voting public doesn't ask much from the people we put in office. We understand taxes will go up, not down, and that buck-passing will usually take precedence over problem-solving.

Some might suggest that is a cynical view, but it's one that, more often than not, rings true.

However, one thing voters detest is being blatantly lied to. We can handle the truth-stretching, fact-bending and little white lies that seem to be part and parcel of politics, but do not purposely mislead.

Ten months into his mandate, Premier Dalton McGuinty is discovering first-hand the public's distaste for a politician who makes all kinds of promises he has no intention of keeping simply to get elected.

On a mini-tour of the province last week, McGuinty acknowledged his government has had a "rough start" and that he "made a promise and broke it" regarding the Liberals' health premium.

McGuinty, however, still seems to be having a difficult time understanding why his trail of broken promises has had such a long shelf life, considering he's closing in

on his first year in power.

"Some people say, well maybe you made too many promises, McGuinty. Well, maybe I did... but I'd rather stand being accused of being too ambitious for Ontarians than side with the cynics."

We're not sure if we would call it being "too ambitious", Mr. Premier.

As all new governments have a habit of doing, McGuinty points to the "mess" left behind by the previous administration and places much of the blame for his promise-breaking on the Tories.

In the mid-'90s many Ontarians found Mike Harris' Tories refreshing simply because they followed through on campaign promises. In retrospect, one can argue the Tories' promises deserved closer scrutiny, but voters were impressed that a politician would actually do what he promised.

Ten months after the fact, McGuinty is still having to deal with an electorate that's fed up with politicians who don't keep a promise. What will be intriguing is if he can shake this millstone by the time the next election rolls around.



Our Readers Write

Bike stolen from E.C. Drury High School very important to young single mother

Dear Editor:

This letter is in regards to a very disturbing incident that happened recently in Milton.

On August 3 one of my English as a Second Language students at E.C. Drury High School came back into the classroom to sadly announce that her borrowed bike had been stolen.

This young, single mother from Columbia had fled from the violence and crime of her homeland to come to a free and safe country.

Would the person who took the bike from the Annex building behind E.C. Drury High School please return it?

Please do so anytime between 9 a.m. and noon Monday to Friday. Leave it inside the Annex building.

This young mother is a dedicated student who's trying to learn the language and is looking for a job to support her son, as well as help her mother. The stolen bike is her only transportation.

Lucy Hannant
Childs Drive

Town just asking for trouble in waiting to put up traffic lights at intersection

Dear Editor:

I was absolutely disgusted to read recently in The Champion that the Town of Milton will wait until next year to install traffic lights at the corner of Derry Road and Santa Maria Boulevard/Commercial

Street.

I was personally involved in a very close call at this very intersection just recently while transporting my six-year-old granddaughter to figure skating.

In my opinion, this is just another

example of poor planning by the Town of Milton, which builds a significant sports complex and then waits to install much-needed traffic lights.

Carol Brooks
Milton

Story on scholarship winner greatly appreciated

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing the article and photograph of Padgett Business Services scholarship winner Zakiah Taha in the July 16 Champion.

I can tell you that the winner's mother was absolutely thrilled to see her daughter's picture in the paper.

Zakiah deserved some recognition for all of her hard

work. Certainly winning a scholarship is a financially-rewarding bonus, but to have your picture in the paper is something that I don't think she'll ever forget.

We appreciate the support The Champion has shown to the hard-working youth in Milton.

Gloria Francis
Padgett Business Services

The Canadian Champion

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Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

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Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

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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/Penetang-uishene 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.

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by Steve Nease

