

Comment

We support \$100,000 grant for Mountsberg

Anyone who has been to Mountsberg Conservation Area can't deny what a great place it is to visit and what wonderful things have been done there to help injured birds of prey.

The park is also a centre for teaching people young and old about animals and other aspects of nature. And it's a haven for outdoor recreational activities.

About 200 acres of Mountsberg Conservation Area is located in Milton. It's operated entirely by Conservation Halton, our local conservation authority.

For all those reasons, we support the \$100,000 grant awarded through the Milton Community Fund to the park to expand and renovate its discovery centre.

To us, it's as good a cause as any.

In fact, we're proud the park is part of our community and can't think of better use for the slots funds.

With so many excellent organizations applying to the Milton Community Fund for funding, tough choices have to be made.

We think the right one was made here. It will be many other groups' turns next year.



Our Readers Write

'Great One' asks Canadians to offer support to those with Down syndrome this week

Dear Editor:

During my 11 years with the Edmonton Oilers, I had the privilege of developing a personal friendship with Joey Moss, a man with Down syndrome.

Joey's contribution to the team was valued by all of my teammates.

It's for these reasons that I'm leashed to offer this letter of support for the Canadian Down Syndrome Society (CDSS), a national non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals like Joey who have Down syndrome. Your support of the CDSS will help it fulfill its mission of educating

and informing Canadians about Down syndrome.

My friendship with Joey was built on a foundation of dignity and respect. We valued each other's abilities and our roles with the team. This helped develop the friendship we have today.

To find out more about Down syndrome, the CDSS or National Down Syndrome Awareness Week, I encourage you to visit the new CDSS Web site at www.cdss.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to celebrate Down syndrome.

Wayne Gretzky

Community fund grant for Hamilton-based Mountsberg Conservation Area questionable

Dear Editor:

Milton council couldn't come up with \$35,000 to put life-saving heart defibrillators in Milton police cruisers, nor could it find a few thousand dollars to help the Milton Marauders with their trip to the national championships in Edmonton.

And now we've read that the committee for the Milton Santa Claus Parade is facing serious financial difficulties.

Here we have Milton organizations and projects needing financial assistance and council says no. Yet this same council approves a \$100,000 grant from the Mohawk Slots revenue for Mountsberg

Conservation Area, which is primarily located in Flamborough, which is now part of Hamilton.

This funding approval is contrary to the policy established by council, that organizations receiving grants from the Community Fund must be Milton based and the amount not exceed \$40,000.

I wonder what's really behind this sudden generosity of Milton council. Why have councillors said no to Milton groups but yes to a Hamilton-based organization?

Why are Milton dollars going into Hamilton when so many in Milton are in need?

Why did the 'New Old Boys Club' of council band together to

ensure this gift of \$100,000 was approved without proper debate and consideration — even denying delegates wishing to address council the right to speak?

Why was council's own policy ignored in the granting of these funds?

These are questions that should be asked of those members of council who supported this expenditure.

If Mountsberg needs funding to expand, then let it get that funding from the slots revenue generated at Flamborough Downs, and let's leave Milton's slots revenue in Milton.

Richard Malboeuf
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by Steve Nease

