

# 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/Penetang-uishe 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, Orangeville Banner, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clearington/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.

Editorial and advertising content of The Canadian Champion is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product



## Cold enough for ya?

Are you growing weary of winter yet? Could the next snowflake that wafts gently down to the ground send you into a frost-induced frenzy?

Does the very mention of an impending -38 C wind-chill send shivers down your spine — even before you step outside?

Although the temptation to complain about the weather is difficult to resist, we can count our blessings we don't live in the blizzard-battered Maritimes.

While residents around the GTA struggled with about 10 cm of snow last weekend and more overnight Tuesday, Nova Scotians faced between 40 to 70 cm and St. John's, Nfld. was buried in 60 cm of the stuff. And we dare to complain.

Exactly when did southern Ontario's favourite winter pastime become sipping from a glass of full-bodied wine?

As if traffic gridlock isn't bad enough in our densely-populated corner of the country, it seems a few centimetres of snow is enough to cause some GTA motorists to surrender their ability to think rationally (although that appears to occur whatever the season).

Each winter three categories of drivers appear on our snow-covered roads; those who over-compensate by crawling along at

less than half the posted speed limit, those who ignore the obvious weather impediments and continue along at or above the speed limit, and those who do take care to drive according to the changing road conditions.

This is winter in Canada. When it snows, safe driving becomes a question of reducing your speed and increasing your braking distance according to the severity of the weather. However, being a safe and responsible winter driver doesn't end there.

The Ontario Provincial Police reminds us of how important it is to completely clear your vehicle of ice and snow before driving; be cautious on bridges and overpasses as they tend to freeze sooner and stay frozen longer than other sections of road; account for longer travel times; and keep your vehicle well maintained by checking such things as tire pressure and windshield washer fluid level. Don't attempt to leave your driveway with you car roof piled high with snow and just a small window of visibility on your windshield.

If we try our very best to embrace winter, while respecting the risks that come with its extreme weather conditions, living in southern Ontario might become bearable, perhaps, enjoyable.

## Our Readers Write

### Time has come to fluoridate Milton's water

Dear Editor:

As new residents to the older part of Milton, we wonder if we're the only ones who find it somewhat disturbing that Mayor Gord Krantz is happy to accept the results of a 30-year-old referendum on what we think about the fluoridation of our water.

We're parents of three girls, and

we'd be happy to know that our water is helping to provide protection against tooth decay. In fact, the World Health Organization considers fluoridation of our water to be one of the most beneficial medical initiatives in the last century.

We don't claim to have all the answers about this issue. However, in our research we've found the

benefits of a small amount of fluoridation to children's teeth far outweigh the risks associated with it.

We'd like to invite other parents and concerned Miltonians to speak up and be heard about this important issue. Perhaps if raised, our voices will be heard.

**Gerry Bennink and Lori Callan**  
Milton

### Staff and students' generosity simply overwhelming

Dear Editor:

As principals of sister schools E.C. Drury High School and Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf, we'd like to thank our students and staff who gave so much of themselves to aid the people of southeast Asia.

Often young people are criticized for their devotion to their own personal needs rather than the needs of others. However, a recent week of intense fundraising to help others who literally have nothing was proof

that our town has raised young people with heart.

Our donation of \$12,000 to the local Canadian Red Cross chapter will hopefully bring some assistance and hope to the tsunami victims overseas. Well done E.C. Drury, and everyone else who supported our efforts.

**Diane Magee, principal**  
**Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf**  
**Nancy Syer, principal**  
**E.C. Drury High School**

## Champion office move comes with mixed feelings

We're movin' on up, to the east side.

That opening line from the Jeffersons' theme song seems kind of appropriate for us Champion staffers, who'll be moving east to a brand new office at 875 Main St. sometime in March.

Even the closing line 'We finally got a piece of the pie' might be suitable — if we're talking pizza pie — since we'll be sharing occupancy of the spacious building with an Italian specialty food store.

On a more serious note, the impending move marks the end of an era for the local paper, which has operated at our current site for more than eight decades. I'm not sure about the rest of the gang, but this sports scribe's sure to get a little bit sentimental as the re-location draws near.

Being the only place I've worked full-time as an adult — not counting my six weeks exiled in Walkerton during the spring of 1992 — 191 Main

St. has certainly become like a second home over the years.

At the risk of getting overly dramatic, I'll leave these digs a whole lot different than the 20 year old who first set foot here as a Sheridan College intern on March 4, 1991.

I've been around for a great deal of touching stories — both heart-warming and tragic — and hopefully grown as a result. Oh I suppose it's not quite the same as saying goodbye to a good friend — something I've had to do here on more than one occasion — but if you live or work somewhere long enough the actual physical structure does become somewhat meaningful.

And leaving those type of places can be quite emotional. I still feel weird whenever I frequent Food Port, which not so long ago was Super Choice Country Market — where I spent six-and-a-half years of my youth as a combination of



Up  
front

with STEVE LeBLANC

serious employee and mischievous prankster.

So to state the obvious I'm somewhat torn about the whole thing — in large part because my drive home to and from 122 Bronte St. will soon be doubled. Right now it's a minuscule four minutes door-to-door — five with traffic — which is about as quick a commute as I could have ever imagined.

Furthermore, I've always been fond of my individual work space, which is almost hidden in the back of our ground floor. It reminds me of sitting at the back of the bus or classroom, where all the cool kids reside — or so I remember.

But from a big-picture perspective, The Champion's move is a positive one — and long overdue. Having a non-cramped parking lot and more spacious and climate-friendly building will far outweigh the extra few minutes drive I'll soon have.

I'm sure some of my co-workers are quite excited about the new digs. Among them is reporter Melanie Hennessey, who's convinced she hears ghosts when alone here at night waiting for town council meetings.

Casper and company have always been quite friendly to me, though. Perhaps I'll ask them to come along.