

## ✓ Error made in Weight Loss Challenge story

Due to a last-minute change at press time Monday, an error appeared in the Weight Loss Challenge story in Tuesday's issue.

It stated that Sean Miller would be following Herbal One's program when, in fact, Mr. Miller will be working out at Pur Health and Fitness.

The Champion regrets the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

# Town won't do civil marriages

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

It looks like the Town of Milton won't be performing civil marriages anytime soon.

In a close 3-2 vote Monday night, the administration and planning committee endorsed staff's recommendation that the Town opt out of offering civil marriage services at this time.

Recent changes to the Marriage Act authorize municipal clerks to offer the non-religious ceremonies to couples, subject to

council approval, a report from Town Clerk Troy McHarg explained.

But the report noted that with the current workload, it wouldn't be feasible for the clerk or deputy clerk to perform civil marriages, meaning the service would have to be contracted out.

"It is also expected that larger municipalities will opt in to this service in the future, thereby further expanding the access to civil marriage," Mr. McHarg reported.

But Milton resident Mike Grimwood told the committee he thought, "Leaching on to other communities for civil services should not be a Town of Milton policy."

He recommended that the committee not accept the findings of Mr. McHarg's report or the recommendation to opt out of civil marriages.

"I further recommend that any further action on this matter be held in abeyance until legislation extending the capacity to marry to same-sex couples is enacted or defeated," he said. "Same-sex marriage is already a heated emotional issue — there is no reason now to create even more tension and add fuel to the flames."

The committee went on to debate the issue, with councillors voicing strong opinions on both sides of the fence.

Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau said she can't support Mr. McHarg's report, noting one of the Town's obligations is to provide services to residents. "Some people may prefer not to have clergy," she noted. "I believe it is an option we do need to make available to our residents."

Wards 1 and 3 Councillor Barry Lee shared similar sentiments.

"If people want to use this facility (Town Hall) for civil marriage, I think we should

give them the opportunity," he said. "I think we should provide that service because there are people out there that desire it."

Mr. McHarg pointed out that location isn't really the issue since Town facilities are already rented out for weddings.

Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor put forward his support for staff's recommendation, noting there aren't many civil marriages in the community today. "We have no idea what the take up would be. I don't want to see us in this business."

Mr. McHarg estimated in his report that anywhere from 17 to 33 couples per year may choose a civil marriage if it were offered by the Town.

Mayor Gord Krantz echoed Mr. Challinor's thoughts, pointing out that people already use the Town Hall for marriage ceremonies.

Ward 2 Councillor Mark Curtis, who's also a priest, said a lot of people already ask him to perform non-denominational services, noting there's many options out there for those who want a civil marriage.

"Why does it have to be a Town responsibility?" he asked.

At the end of the discussion, Mr. Krantz, Mr. Challinor and Mr. Curtis voted in favour of opting out of civil marriage services, while Ms Lunau and Mr. Lee were opposed.

Mr. McHarg's report noted that even if the Town chooses not to perform civil marriages now, it can opt in at any time.

The issue will go before Milton council Monday.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at [mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

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### Get Involved, Share Your Ideas

The Town of Milton invites you to help make decisions and provide input as part of the Board of Management for the Downtown Business Improvement Area (D.B.I.A.) for a term ending with the term of Council.

The successful applicant must be a resident of Milton, or an owner or tenant of land in the municipality, or the spouse of such an owner or tenant, or employee of a business located in the municipality or student attending a school located in the Town of Milton and must be a minimum of eighteen years of age on the date of appointment.

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA (DBIA)

The mandate of the Board of Management for the Downtown Business Improvement Area as established by Milton Council, in accordance with By-law No. 112-77, is for the improvement, beautification and maintenance of municipally-owned lands, buildings and structures in the area designated as the Downtown Business Improvement Area and to promote the designated area as a business or shopping area.

**To qualify to sit as a Member on the Board of the D.B.I.A., the member shall be assessed for business assessment in respect of land in the Downtown Improvement Area, or nominees of Corporations so assessed.**

**Members Needed:** 1 Citizen

**Contact:** Grace Saunders, Coordinator— 905-876-2773

Application forms are available on our website [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca) or from the Office of the Town Clerk, Town of Milton, 43 Brown Street, Milton, ON, L9T 5H2 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Completed application forms must be received at the Office of the Town Clerk no later than March 11th, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.

Only qualified applicants will be contacted.

Troy McHarg, Town Clerk

### TAX NOTICE

Ratepayers of the Town of Milton are reminded that the 1st instalment of the 2005 interim tax bill is due on Monday, February 28, 2005.

If you require information about taxes, please contact the Corporate Services, Tax Division at 905-878-7252 ext. 2193, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Tax payments must be received in the Corporate Services Office on or before the due date to avoid penalty. A late payment charge of 1.25 % will be charged on the first day of default and on the first day of each calendar month in which the default continues.

It is the responsibility of the ratepayer to ensure that the taxes are paid by the due date, even in the event that the bill is not received as mailed.

**Taxes may be paid:**

- By mail: Corporate Services, Tax Division, 43 Brown St., Milton ON L9T 5H2  
Cheques post-dated to the due date are acceptable and encouraged.
- Telephone or Internet banking (check with your financial institution for details)
- By using the mail deposit box to the left of the glass doors at Town Hall (all hours)
- Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Corporate Services, Tax Division, Town Hall, 43 Brown St., Milton. (Cheque or money order is preferred, rather than cash). Direct Debit also accepted.
- Please contact our office for details regarding the Pre-Authorized Tax Payment Program.

## MILTON SENIORS' ACTIVITY CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

500 Childs Drive  
Wednesday, March 30, 2005 at 12:30 p.m.

Interested in learning more about the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre?  
Additional information: Call 905-875-1681, ext. 2755