

Comment

An age-old question

Debate on the issue won't likely intensify until the fall, but the Ontario government put a hot topic on the front burner last week with its announcement the Province is set to scrap mandatory retirement.

As the law stands now in Ontario, workers can be forced to retire at the age of 65.

Opponents of mandatory retirement see this as a human rights violation and that retirement should be a matter of choice.

They point to the fact that Canadians, on average, are in better health now than they were decades ago when mandatory retirement was introduced. They also argue that many jobs today are less physically intense. Is it fair that a marketing specialist, university professor or receptionist be forced to quit his or her job when he or she doesn't want to? Can we as a society bent on extending equal rights to all Canadians discriminate against those who have hit a certain age? Surely each of us knows a "senior" who

is fully capable of working.

Proponents of mandatory retirement see it differently, of course. They feel mandatory retirement ensures "new blood" will constantly flow in the business world and this allows employers the opportunity to rid themselves of employees they may no longer want.

Union leaders also see mandatory retirement as a way for employers to take advantage of senior employees by making them work longer, thus weakening pension plans.

Four provinces and the Territories have already done away with mandatory retirement as have Australia, New Zealand and the United States. This growing trend can ease financial burdens for seniors, aid women who left the workforce to raise children and help new immigrants.

As long as seniors' workers' rights are protected, we view ending mandatory retirement as a positive step. We're sure, though, there will be plenty of discussion before this becomes law.



Our Readers Write

Thanks to all who supported arts festival

Dear Editor:

As president of Arts Milton and on behalf of the board of directors, let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended our recent Arts Milton Festival.

Milton has so much to offer in terms of arts, and it was a pleasure to showcase it to fellow Miltonians. A wide variety of interests were available by all our member groups, as well as some very welcome guests.

This event wasn't only a challenge to organize, but a pleasure to see unfold. The hard work and dedication by all participants is truly a testament to the

vibrancy of our cultural community.

Many thanks go out to our generous sponsors and contributors for their support. Also, thanks to our hard-working volunteers, organizers and staff, who sacrificed countless hours to make this event possible.

I would personally like to thank all the directors on the Arts Milton board. It's a genuine honour to work with you.

Needless to say, the artists themselves deserve a tremendous round of applause. They inspire us all.

**Greg Nelson, president
Arts Milton**

Fourth Line closure is indeed causing problem; issue needs to be revisited

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the June 7 letter by Larisa Drozd-Trauzzi in regard to the closure of Fourth Line.

I wholeheartedly agree that someone is going to get hurt or worse in this area as a direct result of the poor planning by the Town, which closed Fourth Line without ensuring that proper alternative routes were in place.

I e-mailed the Town of Milton May 9 to question what they were planning to do about Fifth Line and Derry Road, and was informed that this particular road actually falls under the responsibility of Halton Region.

I then forwarded my e-mail directly to the Region for a reply, to which I was informed there weren't

any plans to put in temporary signaled lighting at Fifth Line and Derry Road, and that I should use Trudeau Drive. I don't have access to this road since they closed Fourth Line.

No sooner did I receive this e-mail back from the Region than on the way home that evening there was a major accident at Fifth Line and Derry Road.

I have timed trying to make a left turn from Fifth Line onto Derry Road, or to go straight through to continue on Fifth Line. In the morning between 7:30 and 8 a.m., it can take anywhere from five to 12 minutes to safely make your move.

The Town and the Region really need to do something here before someone is seriously hurt or dies as a result of the poor planning. I e-

mailed back the Region and strongly urged them to do a review of the area. In my opinion, the infrastructure in this area isn't what it needs to be to accommodate the ever-growing population in Milton.

The residents of this town need to start making some serious noise about the traffic issues. Otherwise nothing will be done.

I urge anyone concerned about the traffic levels in Milton — especially in the Fifth Line and Derry Road area — to contact the Town or Region. Maybe if they get enough calls and e-mails they'll do a traffic survey and do something sooner than when the new James Snow Parkway is completed sometime next year.

**Patty Norris
Babcock Crescent**

E-mail all your letters to the editor to miltone@haltonsearch.com.

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