

# Comment

## Some food for thought

In the weekly deluge of Halton Region press releases about unsafe beaches, heat alerts and West Nile virus updates, some residents may have missed a recent report that could force restaurants to make their health department reports available to the public.

Halton Region officials are looking to make Dinewise — a program where restaurants voluntarily disclose the results of their inspection reports — mandatory for Halton food establishments. Not a bad idea.

Approximately 550 restaurants in the region currently take part in the program in which an inspection certificate is posted prominently in the restaurant.

Customers can also ask to see the latest inspection reports.

Region staff is expected to report back to council in October with recommendations on making Dinewise mandatory after receiving comments from local restaurant operators.

We hope council does draft a new bylaw making Dinewise compulsory and, frankly, wonder why any restaurant oper-

ator would fight such a move. If a restaurant has a solid inspection report, why would the owner object to that information being made public? Surely a good report would only encourage more business?

Restaurant owners were surveyed by phone last year on making Dinewise mandatory. Of those taking part in the voluntary program, 84 per cent supported making the program mandatory; only 65 per cent of non-participants were in favour.

We can't help but wonder what is it that some Halton restaurants don't want the public to know.

In another portion of the survey, 81 per cent of respondents said having information about food safety inspections would influence their decision on where they eat — even more incentive for restaurants to meet safety standards.

We see making Dinewise mandatory as a win-win situation for both restaurant operators and, more importantly, the dining public.

## MARCH OF THE STUDENT PENGUINS



## Our Readers Write

### Municipal tax increase quite concerning

Dear Editor:

Recently The Champion reported that the citizens of Milton could face a municipal tax increase of 5 per cent, which is nearly twice the 3 per cent hike from this year, in order to maintain the town's existing service levels.

Many Miltonians are living on either fairly modest or fixed incomes, and any tax increase is just another drain on their already quickly-dwindling finances. Energy, housing and basic living costs

are going up dramatically — please not municipal taxes too. Miltonians just can't afford it, it's that simple.

Regardless of the reasons given by Town staff, the result shouldn't be just to push through tax increases on Miltonians. We as the citizens of Milton are in essence customers of Milton, and we should be treated as such, not like bounce-about-as-you-will taxpayers.

**Bob Beyette**  
Milton

### Shooting for Angels fundraiser was a big success, thanks to great support from town

Dear Editor:

As a seasoned veteran of quite a few 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, I have to say that I was very impressed with the recent Shooting for Angels event at E.C. Drury High School in memory of Mike Maynard and Doug Burns.

In most cases, inaugural events like this start small, with low participation and volunteer help and relatively little support from the private sector, not to mention having scheduling and operational glitches along the way.

However, I feel I speak for the majority of those involved when I say that the first annual Shooting

for Angels was a slam dunk.

From the quantity and quality of volunteers and excitement generated by the participants to the support of such businesses as Bryden's and Portabello's — among others — the event was nothing short of spectacular.

This success can be heavily attributed to the obvious hard work of organizers Tom Gallinger, Ryan Eacrett and Adam Scott.

Overall, the success of the tournament was a testament to both Mike and Doug, as well as the Maynard and Burns families. It's amazing the impact two quality individuals can have on a commu-

nity, among young and old alike.

I can see this event growing for years to come to further help preserve the memory of Mike and Doug and support Lawson Ministries and the Milton District Hospital.

As a fellow Miltonian and passionate basketball player — and having known both Mike and Doug — I'd invite those of you in this community who weren't part of Shooting for Angels to help support next year's event by visiting [www.shootingforangels.com](http://www.shootingforangels.com).

It truly was a blissful event.

**Craig O'Neil**  
Milton

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## Pud

by Steve Nease

