

# Comment.

## A licence to steal

General Jim McCarter.

In his 406-page review, released last Tuesday, McCarter paints a disturbing picture of incompetence and alleged criminal activity from within the Ministry of Transportation. His most serious criticism involves more than 56,000 documents and licence plates being stolen or lost under the Liberal government's watch.

The report further details what McCarter characterized as a criminal element operating from within the ministry that oversees the Province's licensing of drivers and vehicles.

We find it most troubling to think that in our post-9/11 world, people with criminal records would be able to gain unencumbered access to such sensitive documents as licence plates, plate stickers, temporary vehicle permits and disabled parking permits.

The legitimacy of Ontario's drivers' privately-operated licensing offices to keep licences as documents for identification these documents secure. Making matters when travelling outside our province may worse is McCarter's finding that the minhave been compromised last week by a istry has made no real effort to investigate damning report from Ontario's Auditor its losses or recover the thousands of missing documents.

> Other eye-opening discoveries by the auditor general's office included:

 Membership cards for wholesale warehouse clubs, employee and student cards without photos being accepted as one of two forms of identification necessary to obtain ministry documents;

 Only seven of 40 young offenders who should have received lifetime driving suspensions actually did.

Transportation Minister Harinder Takhar's promise of a zero tolerance policy regarding privately-run licensing centres and his insistence that the ministry will no longer accept Costco membership cards and other easily obtained forms of identification from anyone applying for Ministry of Transportation documents ring hollow.

His words are tantamount to closing the The auditor general's report detailed the proverbial barn door after the horse — or in inability of several of the province's 280 this case 56,000 horses — has fled.





# Our Readers Write

#### Tax increases are getting out of hand

Dear Editor:

I know that we're taught it's more blessed to give than receive, especially at this time of year, but my personal Santa suit is beginning to feel threadbare especially around the pockets.

Champion, we taxpayers have been designated as the 'givers' this year. This increases for next year, with a police budget hike, property assessments going up and a Conservation Halton budget request increase just to name a few.

I don't have any great solutions, but I do know that my pockets are just about

taxed out.

Who do I ask for an increase? Oh that's right, I don't have a taxpayer base. Soon all of Milton's original residents will no longer be able to keep up with the constantly-outstretched hand of the taxrnan.

According to the December 2 There's also the Niagara Escarpment Commission parking fiasco, where the chairman mentions receiving other comrecent issue contained several articles plaints about the situation. Makes me that have one thing in common — tax wonder if a petition of people in favour of allowing the parking for one more year would out-weigh the complaints.

Thanks for letting me vent, and season's greetings to all.

Al McKenzie Wilson Drive

### Blame game is nothing more than a cop out

Dear Editor:

We moved to Milton in 2002 and were delighted with our choice.

Our first impressions of the courtesy and politeness that we encountered warmed our hearts. Recent explosive growth, however, has shown us another side — the inability of the officials that run this town to face up to this challenge.

of a meeting in the town reported councillors and the mayor blaming the various levels of government for their different agendas, including federal immigration, provincial planning and regional 'politics'.

Leadership is about manoeuvering appropriately amidst a variety of demands and being able to deliv-

between a Liberal and a Conservative.

er the goods. Playing the blame to have more power than our town game is a cop out.

nate for regional roads like Derry, but what about Thompson Road with hundreds of houses already

Road upgrade before Fourth Line was closed.

With some creative foresight when approving subdivisions, the on road upgrades. Perhaps then the its standards. developers will use their clout with the Region. They certainly appear

council.

Road infrastructure and develop- Or does the Town want us to ment may be difficult to co-ordibelieve that it doesn't have the final authority for approving subdivi-

Another distressing note in the same paper that week was Halton While the Town did an excellent District School Board Chair and job upgrading Main Street before Milton trustee Paul Tate blaming A recent article in The Champion adjacent housing was complete, it others for what was a wasteful didn't schedule the Thompson episode - the paying out of a \$600,000 severance to its former education director.

> Let's see more responsibility and less throwing mud at others. It approvals can be made contingent doesn't become this town to lower

Selma Deans Somerville Terrace

### Fine Canadian Champion

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The Conservative has a hard work ethic and doesn't expect something for nothing, while the Liberal values can be spin-doctored and can be shown to be similar.

It has taken me several decades of federal govern-

ment performances to learn the key distinction

Unlike Liberals, Tories don't expect something for nothing It's hard work having your hand outstretched all the time. Then you have to do something with the money you got for nothing.

> When reduced to their core values, the implications become abundantly clear.

> > Jon J. Komow Ontario Street

### Pud

Dear Editor:





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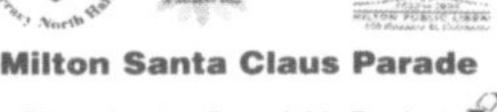


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