

Large number of Carr's election signs removed

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN** and **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
The Champion

A slew of missing campaign signs has prompted Liberal candidate Gary Carr to propose the idea of doing away with them for good.

"I'm interested in seeing if other candidates are interested in getting rid of them all together," he said, adding he's also curious as to how the public would feel about the idea.

Stolen or missing signs is nothing new, Mr. Carr said, noting some disappeared in last year's federal election as well. But, he

said, it wasn't to this degree.

Within 24 hours of setting up Liberal campaign signs the first weekend in December, about 75 per cent of them were gone, Mr. Carr said, adding they hadn't simply been blown or knocked over.

"They were totally gone," he said. "None of the other candidates' were gone."

Areas that weren't well lit seem to have suffered the most, he said. He's asking the public to keep an eye out for anyone taking down Liberal signs.

Mabel Martins, campaign manager for Mr. Carr, said she can't believe this is happening.

"This is absolutely disgusting that people would stoop so low and resort to such dirty tactics," she said.

Doing away with signs would take away the opportunity for theft, spare the community an eyesore and, in Burlington, may eliminate some extra costs, Mr. Carr said.

In Burlington, a bylaw was passed prohibiting election signs on public property, with the exception of Appleby and Guelph lines and Dundas Street, since they're regional and provincial roads.

When people violate the bylaw, it takes time and the public's money to have them taken down, Mr. Carr said.

Not putting up signs is something all four candidates would need to agree on, he added. But the incumbent may have a hard time convincing them of the benefits of his proposal.

While Conservative candidate Garth Turner said ultimately Mr. Carr's suggestion could be a good idea, he still sees the merit in having election signs.

"I think they play a role, particularly signs on private property," he said, noting it's a way for individuals to show who they support.

Mr. Turner said a large number of his campaign signs have also gone missing — or been damaged by the weather — but noted it's a fairly common problem in every election.

Halton NDP candidate Anwar Naqvi told The Champion he doesn't support the concept of doing away with the signs.

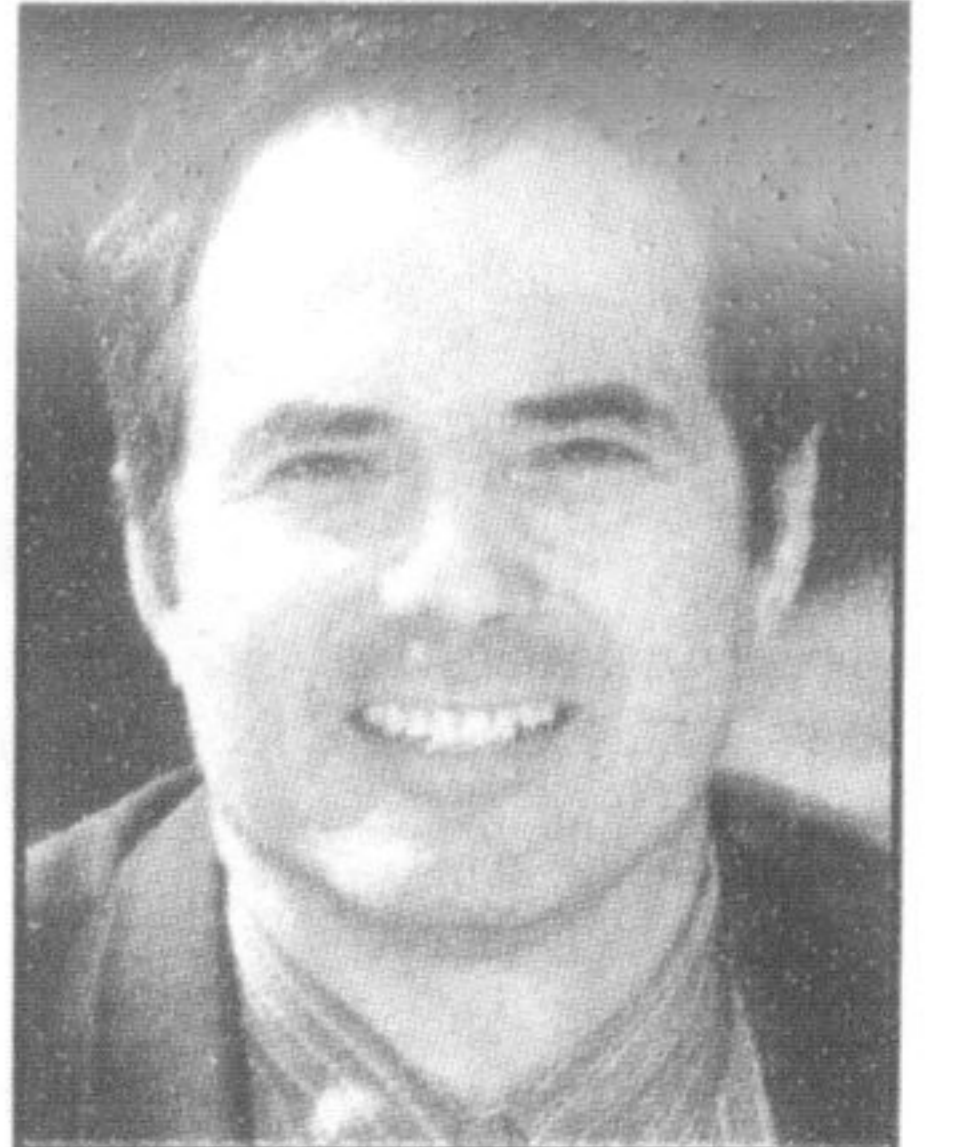
"How will we get out to the people if we don't put up signs?" he said, noting since Mr. Carr is the current MP he has exposure that the other parties don't.

Meanwhile, local Green Party candidate Dr. Kyle Grice said he has mixed feelings about the idea.

"In one way, it would be a strike against us. Some people don't even know of our existence," he said. "It's (signs) good for us in a sense that it gets our name out there."

On the other hand, he said the signs are a "waste of material." He pointed out that since a different candidate ran for the Green Party in Halton last year, they couldn't even recycle the signs this time around.

Both Dr. Grice and Mr. Naqvi said their parties haven't noticed many of their signs missing.



Gary Carr



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Facility	Municipal Offices:	Fire Department (Administration only)	Milton Leisure Centre	Milton Sports Centre	Milton Seniors' Activity Centre
	Town Hall Victoria Park 43 Brown St. Town Hall Annex 555 555 Industrial Dr.	Central Fire Hall 405 Steeles Ave.	1100 Main St. East	605 Santa Maria Blvd John Tonelli Sports Centre 217 Laurier Ave. Milton Memorial Arena 77 Thompson Rd.	500 Childs Dr.
Holiday Hours	Closed: December 23-30, inclusive Re-Opens: January 2, 2006	Closed: December 23-30 inclusive Re-Opens: January 2, 2006	Closed: December 25 December 26 January 1 Early Closing (1:30 pm): December 24 December 31	Closed: December 25 December 26 January 1 Early Closing (4:00 pm): December 24 December 31	Closed: December 24-January 1 inclusive Re-Opens: January 2, 2006
Additional Information	For any Town of Milton operational service emergency during this time please call 905-878-7141	For Fire Service Emergencies please call 911	Please Call 905-878-7946	Memorial Arena 905-878-4163 John Tonelli Sports Centre 905-878-2671 Milton Sports Centre 905-875-5393	Please call 905-875-1681

Mayor Krantz, Members of Council and the Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all Milton residents a holiday blessed with peace, prosperity, health and happiness and best wishes for the upcoming year.



BRING IN THE
NEW YEAR!

Residents and guests are invited to join Mayor Krantz and representatives from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #136 around the historic bell in Victoria Park, Downtown Milton on December 31 at 11:45 pm to greet in 2006. Enjoy refreshments in Hugh Foster Hall adjacent to Town Hall, compliments of the Ramada Inn & Suites.

Residents and guest are invited to join Mayor Krantz, Members of Council and the Milton Historical Society at the New Years Day Levee on January 1, 2006 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 43 Brown Street. The theme for this year's Levee will be "Milton's Changing Ways". Enjoy light refreshments courtesy of the Milton Historical Society.