

Motion for yearly consultation principle review fails at council

By **Melanie Hennessey**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

An attempt by a Milton councillor to follow through on a resident's request and have the Town's Public Consultation Principles reviewed annually proved unsuccessful at last week's council meeting.

Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau put forward a motion calling for the principles — which are designed to provide staff and residents with a framework to follow when planning or participating in public meetings and consultations — to be brought back for a review each year that involves two-way discussion with the public.

"To not have consultation on your Public Consultation Principles is like an oxymoron," she said. "If you don't have a review and feedback, then how do you know how you're

doing?"

The proposal was in accordance with a request council received from Milton resident Jim Harding.

But Lunau's motion failed to garner support from the majority of council members and lost in a 6-4 vote.

"I was quite surprised it didn't pass," she told The Champion. "I was very disappointed my colleagues didn't see the yearly review as an essential part of the guidelines."

Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor, who voted against the motion, said he does support an annual review of the guidelines, but wasn't clear on what Lunau meant by a "two-way discussion with the public."

"We've always had that kind of consultation," he argued.

He also said he feels the new council, which will come in after the fall election, should

determine and define the process when it comes to the principles.

"That's for them to deal with," he remarked.

The Public Consultation Principles that cover things like accountability, two-way communication, mutual respect, privacy, timeliness and accessibility were adopted by council in February 2005.

At that time, council directed that the principles be brought back in a year for review and/or further refinement. The public was invited to provide submissions on the matter.

A report on the issue, which council received for information purposes at its April 24 session, stated that staff isn't recommending any changes to the principles right now.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com.

Learn about effects of federal budget

How the new federal budget will affect local families' finances will be the topic of a Town Hall meeting hosted by Halton MP Garth Turner this Sunday.

The free session will take place at the Lions Club Hall on Guelph Line in Campbellville start-

ing at 4 p.m.

Turner will explain the changes that the budget brings about and answer questions residents have.

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