

Election candidate vows to stop 'Mississauga Jr.'

Town's growth can't continue at current rate: Ward 2 hopeful

By **Melanie Hennessey**
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Jim Timbers is hoping the third time's a charm for him in this fall's municipal election.

The local resident, who ran for town council in both the 2000 and 2003 elections, has put his name forward again as a Ward 2 candidate.

But this time around, Timbers said he's taking a different approach.

"Last time I tried being politically correct, but it just wasn't me," he said. "I'd rather say what I believe in. People are going to accuse me of mudslinging, but being straightforward is the only way I know to be."

The long-time Miltonian said he thinks the town is becoming 'Mississauga Jr.' — something he would like to see stopped before it's too late.

"I think in many ways this is probably the most important election as far as the direction the Town is going," he said. "We can continue to do what we've always done or we can stand up and say, 'We want better.'"

Timbers noted he feels the town is seeing "growth for the sake of growth" and it can't continue.

He pointed out that with all of the new development, the need for more hospital space is urgent. He said he feels council should push the Province as hard as it can to get the hospital expansion in place.

On the financial front, the 35-year-old said he promises he would never support a budget that includes a tax increase or hike in council members' salaries.

"We can't keep asking people for more money and then put it into councillors' pockets," he said.

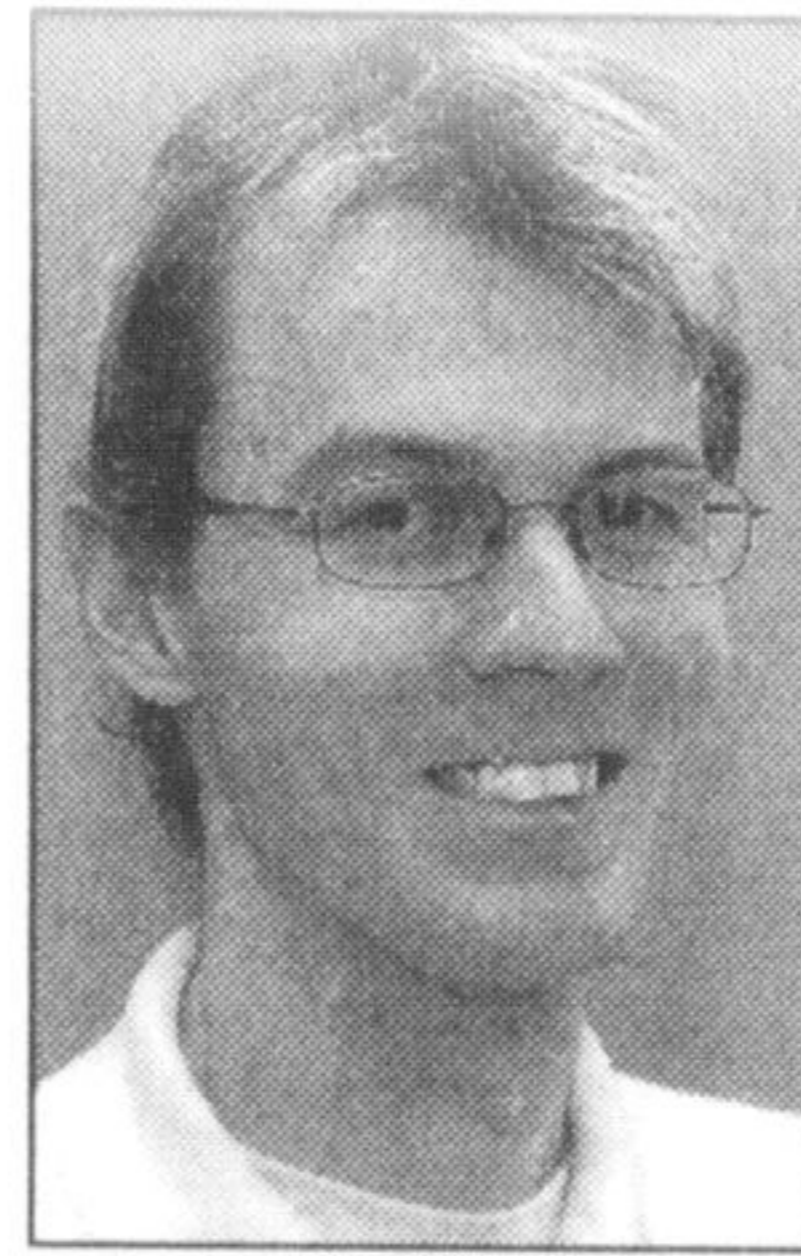
He also vowed that he wouldn't vote in favour of more development until the town's infrastructure can support it.

In addition, he said he's opposed to development on the Niagara Escarpment.

"Quite frankly that just can't be allowed," he said.

While water fluoridation has been a hot topic for a long time in Milton, Timbers said he has no plans to force fluoride on those whose water isn't currently treated.

"Why do we want to intentionally add one more chemical to our water that may or may not be good for us?" he questioned. "Let them (residents) make the decision."



Jim Timbers

When it comes to local employment, Timbers said he thinks the Town needs to examine the mix of employers that are setting up shop in Milton.

"The bulk coming in are lower paying retail jobs," he noted. "While any job that's created is good, we need long-term, sustainable jobs."

He said at the end of the day, he'll recognize that as a councillor, "The town doesn't work for me — I work for the town."

"If nothing else, I bring a different and younger set of eyes to the table," he remarked.

The current Ward 2 councillors are Mike Boughton and Mark Curtis.

A few other local residents have put their names forward to run in the municipal election.

Tony Lambert is vying for the position of Wards 1 and 3 councillor, while current Ward 4 Councillor Wendy Schau is hoping to keep her seat for a second term.

Also registered to run is Milton Ratepayers' Association president Kevin Brackley, who's seeking the title of Ward 1 councillor.

Nominations can be filed at the Town Clerk's office, located in Town Hall Victoria Park, 43 Brown St., until September 28 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and on September 29 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

It costs \$100 to register as a candidate. Election day is November 13. The term of office will run from December 1, 2006 to November 30, 2009.

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

Seniors' report card in the works

A report card on Halton seniors' issues is in the works.

The Region's Elder Services Advisory Committee (ESAC) is developing the document that'll highlight areas of concern for future seniors, committee chair Carole Ward told the Halton health and social services committee recently.

"We're researching areas that affect the quality of life of seniors in Halton," she said.

The report card will focus on physical health, social engagement, personal safety, mental health, access to health-care services, financial health, housing, transportation and access to information.

Ward detailed other things that ESAC has been up to, such as creating a new Halton Seniors' Directory and developing a work plan for 2007 and 2008.

The committee also requested that the Region allow its name to be changed from 'Elderly' to 'Elder' Services Advisory Committee.

"We feel that elder has a more positive connotation," Ward remarked.

Regional council approved the change at its meeting last week.

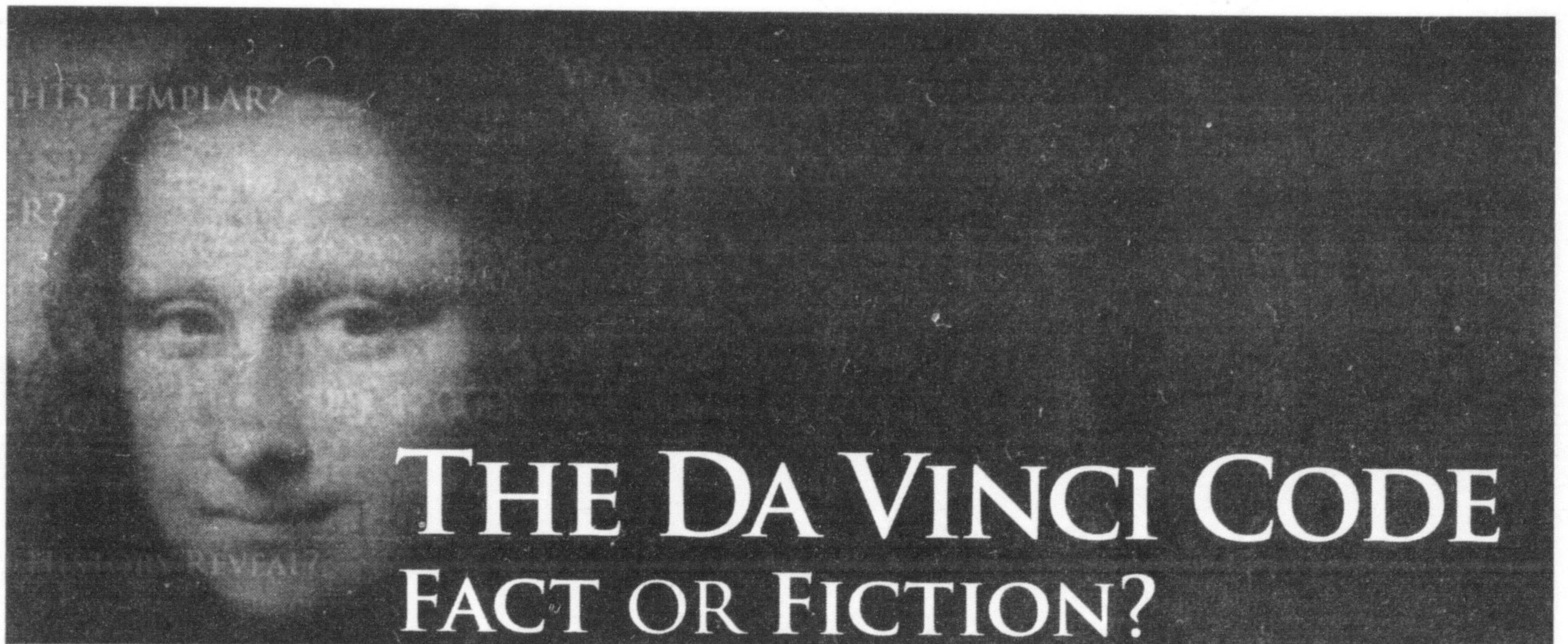
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The Canadian Champion would like to apologize for accidentally omitting the BMO Bank of Montreal from The Favourite Bank Category in the 2006 Milton Choice Awards.

There is a corrected ballot published in today's Canadian Champion on pages A33 & A34.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



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