

# OPINION

## Democracy diluted

In an artifice that would make Mike Harris or George W. Bush proud, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty tucked an important piece of legislation into a recently-approved budget bill that will see municipal council terms extended from three years to four.

That McGuinty traded the rights of municipal voters to appease the interests of current municipal council members is curious.

Consider what the Premier said in December 1999 for the full effect:

"Public hearings; those two words go together nicely if you believe in true democracy, if you recognize that public input is one of the tools that make for good legislation and if you really believe in tools, instead of the same old-fashioned, Tory

sledgehammer approach to legislation in Ontario."

"Ramming through bills without proper debate weakens our system of democracy," he added in May 2003.

McGuinty buried legislation in the government's budget bill that makes municipal elections less frequent by extending the terms of local councils and school boards to four years from the current three.

The change was introduced without public consultation and without debate.

This legislation is a jewel for politicians, and a disaster for voters. Fewer and less frequent local elections serve only the interests of politicians seeking to delay accountability to the voters.

Our democracy is the weaker for it.



## ReadersWrite

Send us your letters to [miltoned@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltoned@haltonsearch.com) or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

## Thanks to all who supported annual rural roadside clean-up

### DEAR EDITOR:

Well over 100 volunteers turned out on Saturday, May 6 to clean the garbage from the roads in and around Brookville, Campbellville and Moffat.

This year we had five dumpsters out. Three were designated for garbage and were filled completely by Sunday evening. The other two were designated for tires and had well over 100 tires in them, down from last year's total of 350. Apart from the pop cans, water bottles and coffee cups, which make up most of the general littering, soaking sofas and carpets were hauled out of the swamp.

These had to be left to drain and were removed by the Town on Monday morning, as they were too heavy to lift onto the trucks. People who like to dump items seem to prefer to dump them in beauty spots for some reason. The number of garbage bags dumped by the side of the road were down substantially, too. Could this be because we now have garbage collection? I'm told by one of the pick-up truck drivers that there were at least another 40 people picking up garbage on the Sunday.

On behalf of the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee, I would like to thank all the volunteers who turned out on May 6 to clean up the garbage, whether you were working in the ditches or on the pick-up trucks.

You all did a great job, and I'm sure you will all agree that the area looks better for your efforts.

Thank you also to the companies that supported us this year. Mohawk Raceway provided a work crew on Guelph Line, as well as water and t-shirts for the volunteers. Mohawk also takes some of the garbage into its dumpsters, otherwise our dumpsters would overflow.

Thank you also to Tim Hortons on Regional Road 25, north of Hwy. 401, for coffee and Timbits, Gordon Food Service for hamburger patties, pop and water and Cristello's Village Market in Campbellville for the hamburger buns, meatless chicken patties and condiments.

Your generous donations were very much appreciated by all the volunteers. The Brookville Minor Baseball Association put the barbecue together for us and the hot food was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone after a cold day in the ditches. The Nassagaweya Tennis Club opened their doors for us to have toilet facilities and provided early morning coffee.

It's wonderful to see so many organizations pulling together to make the area a cleaner and safer place to live. We're proud to live in such a caring community.

I'd also like to thank The Champion for the great job they've done of covering these events and keeping all the efforts of community groups to clean up their area in the news.

**JEAN WOODS, ORGANIZER  
NASSAGAWEYA ROADSIDE  
CLEAN-UP**

## Fluoride has no place in Milton's drinking water

### DEAR EDITOR:

In my technical opinion, it's criminal to suggest that waste poisonous halogens such as fluoride and chlorine are safe for human consumption — at any level.

Fluoride is a dominant industrial pollutant resulting from iron, steel, aluminum, copper, lead and zinc manufacturing operations, and is a by-product of fertilizer operations. Rather than apply to dispose of this poison, the above companies turned an industrial pollutant into something that prevents cavities.

According to the research found in Clinical Toxicology of Commercial Products, 5th Edition, 1984, lead has a toxicity rating of 3, which is moderate. Fluoride, more specifically sodium fluoride in tap water, has a toxicity rating of 4, a 'high or very high' toxicity.

In 1990, the National Cancer Institute found and stated that commercial fluoride was carcinogenic. In 1992, it found a 6.9 per cent increase in bone cancer linked directly to fluoridated water, which has also been linked to increases in brain damage, osteoporosis and arthritis.

Fluoridated toothpaste is so toxic that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has mandated the following warning label — "If you accidentally swallow more than used for brushing, seek professional help or contact a poison control centre immediately."

Given this public knowledge, I strongly suggest that for our Halton Region Health Department to mandate fluoride into our drinking water supply is tantamount to criminal negligence and accordingly, should be dealt with in the strongest fashion.

The requirement for safe drinking water is clear, and it doesn't require chlorine or fluoride to achieve that.

Milton used to be the last community in the province not to chlorinate its drinking water. I certainly would like a return to that era. To Halton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal, I hope you're reading this.

**JON KOMOW  
MILTON**

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875 Main St. E.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 3Z3

**905-878-2341**

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Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364  
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**Publisher: Ian Oliver**

**Associate Publisher**  
Neil Oliver

**Advertising Director**  
Wendy McNab

**Managing Editor**  
Karen Smith

**Production Manager**  
Tim Coles

**Circulation Manager**  
Charlene Hall

**Office Manager**  
Teri Casas

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