

OPINION

Will we the citizens follow the leader?

Only one thing stands in the way of the Ontario government's Places to Grow Plan being an unqualified success — we the citizens.

In preparing for a future that sees four million people moving into the Golden Horseshoe over the next 25 years, the Province has determined we can no longer afford to gobble up the region's outlying farmlands and greenspace in the name of suburban sprawl.

Its solution is to channel much of this growth into the existing urban boundaries of several communities in the Golden Horseshoe, including Milton.

Theoretically, no one would argue against the goals of this ambitious and visionary plan to curb urban sprawl.

Everyone agrees that something must be done to protect our farmland, woodlots and greenfields from being developed and our air polluted by gas guzzling cars stuck in gridlock.

But while everyone agrees something must be done, the reality is that most people don't want it to occur in their own backyard.

There lies the biggest challenge facing the Places to Grow Act — public acceptance.

Historically, infill developments that increase the population densities of existing neighbourhoods have always run into stiff opposition from existing residents.

In the wake of the Places to Grow plan, municipal councils have been handed the responsibility of winning over the hearts and minds of its residents.

It remains to be seen, however, whether councillors will be willing to stand up to this neighbourhood opposition.

Most people concerned about our environment agree that the Province has taken a step in the right direction with its Places to Grow Plan. The question is whether individual residents will be willing to follow in the Province's footsteps when the plan hits close to home.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltoneid@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Milton council doing a fine job

DEAR EDITOR:

Recently I've read numerous negative letters about Mayor Gord Krantz and town council.

Upon my move here two years ago, I had a few concerns about a park and development. When I contacted the mayor's office and councillors, not only did they respond to me in a timely fashion, they made numerous trips to my home to meet with me and my neighbours.

Krantz, Councillor Rick Day and particularly Councillor Brian Penman

spent quite a bit of time and energy with me, and in the end resolved all of my issues.

I think many residents of Milton are making too quick of a judgment on our current mayor and councillors. Milton is growing at an incredible rate, and the challenge of accommodating all of the new residents with updated infrastructure must be staggering.

I believe the councillors and mayor are doing a fine job.

**JONATHAN MITROVICH
MILTON**

Upfront

An unexpected reminder of just how great this country is

Sometimes the most meaningful conversations come at the most unlikely of occasions.

Such was the case for yours truly last month during a quick stop to get my hair cut. Over the past few years I've had my few remaining follicles trimmed by a guy named Omid. He's a very likeable guy who loves to talk about his baby daughter — which, having an honorary niece and nephew myself, is something I get a kick out of.

But on this particular visit, we got around to talking about how he happened to come to Canada in the early '80s — a period fraught with turmoil and upheaval in his native Iran.

As someone who grew up with just about every advantage possible, it was kind of amazing for me to hear about someone still in their teens leaving their family behind and

traveling halfway across the world to start a new life — with little money and no job prospects to speak of upon arrival. Omid didn't even speak English when he first came here — only picking it up along the way during his early years in Canada doing menial jobs.

Of course this type of story isn't exactly rare for those who immigrate to Canada. But somehow it strikes a more memorable chord when you hear such a tale from someone you already think highly of — someone who by all accounts is quite deserving of the happiness he has found in his adopted land.

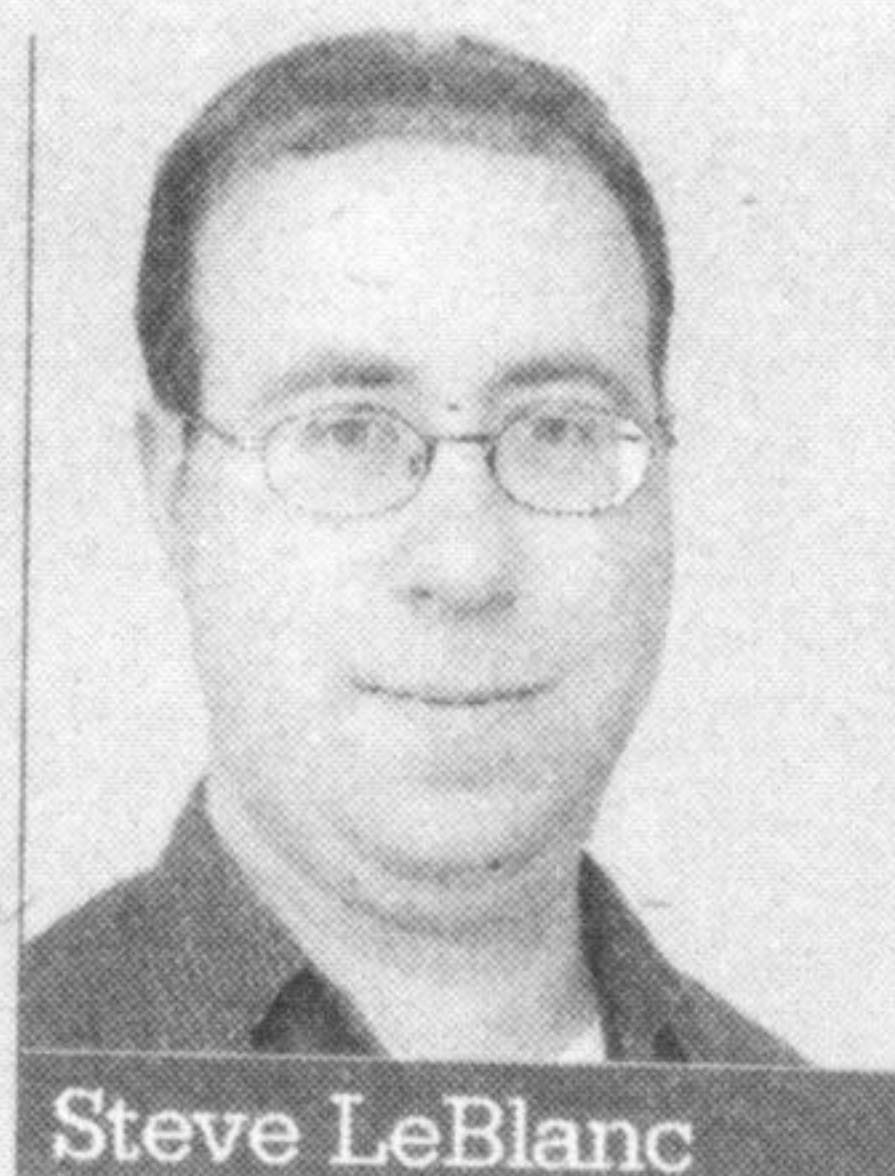
As our once little town continues to grow, we're becoming more and more a diverse community, with many of our newest

Miltonians newcomers in a genuine sense — having come here from countries near and far to find a better life.

And isn't that something we all deserve? To me, a person's chances for happiness should depend on their willingness to work hard and treat others the way they would like to be treated themselves — not on geography.

Unfortunately, where we live and the quality of life we enjoy often go hand-in-hand. And that's why we're so fortunate to be living in both this country and this community. I remember leaving First Choice Haircutters that day with a blatant reminder of that fact. Thanks Omid.

It's just something to think about as Canada Day draws near.



Steve LeBlanc

The Canadian Champion
Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

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

905-878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943
Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

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

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 875 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 3Z3, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. community newspapers.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for; but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

CCAB Audited

Recognized for excellence by

ocna Ontario Community Newspapers Association

CNA Canadian Community Newspapers Association

SNV Suburban Newspapers of America

The Canadian Champion is a proud media sponsor for:

Halton Healthcare

Child Find
ONTARIO

WELCOME WAGON
SINCE 1930

THE SALVATION ARMY

MILTON CANADA DAY

UNITED WAY OF MILTON

Relay For Life
Helping people live

TV AUCTION

MILTON SANTA CLAUS PARADE

YMCA

MCRC

YMCA
OF ONTARIO

ATHENA Awards

The Oakville, Milton

MILTON

Showcase Milton
More than a Home and Leisure Show!

GALA Awards

FAO
POLICE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

GALA Awards

FAO

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product