

Turner responds on blog Cops to get office at Town Hall

• from MP on page A1
effectively questioning the authenticity and loyalty of Canadians who reside in Lebanon and is advocating that they be treated as second-class citizens."

But in an interview with The Champion Friday afternoon, Turner stated he's "not withdrawing anything."

"I think it's just politics," he said of Alghabra's claims. "He's taking shots, but I'm not too concerned. I have no issue with him."

The local MP said Alghabra's press release is misleading, noting he has never talked about first or second-class Canadians.

He emphasized that Canada's humanitarian effort in Lebanon is definitely worthwhile, and he's not suggesting for a moment that it shouldn't be done.

The release also alleged Turner "claimed because many hold dual citizenship, they don't deserve the same treatment as other Canadians and that the government shouldn't be obligated to rescue them."

The feisty Halton MP didn't take those comments lying down either and rebutted on his highly-popular Web blog, which garnered more than 100,000

hits Thursday as the controversy on the evacuation issue grew.

"Of course I said nothing of the kind," Turner writes, going on to say, "I stick by my assertion that people who live permanently in other countries, where they pay taxes and have their own governments, should hardly expect taxpayers here to gladly fly them across the world. Even Canadian citizens who get lost in a national park in Alberta have to pay big money to be rescued."

When asked about his comments in various media sources on giving those who actually live in Canada rescue preference, Turner asserted, "I think we should give preferential treatment to people truly in homeless emergency situations."

While he lists several questions on his Web site that he hopes will be discussed sometime soon, such as whether the federal government's move is setting a precedent or "how it is so many people who are not part of this country are running around with our passports," Turner acknowledges now isn't the time to debate it.

"Right now the focus is

on getting people safe and, more importantly, getting the idiot generals and the politicians behind them to stop shooting at each other," the blog concludes.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Halton Regional Police will soon have an increased presence in the downtown area.

The force is planning to open a community police office at Town Hall, receiving support from town council last week to do so.

"The benefits to the Town are that there will be irregular and after-hours police presence at Town Hall, which will benefit security," Town Clerk Troy McHarg reported to council.

"Also, the officer will eventually be located in the

bylaw enforcement work area that will result in an even closer working relationship and enhanced cooperation on joint enforcement matters."

Police will pay the Town \$600 per year for the office space.

Town looks to build board connections

The Town is looking to expand its relationship with both Halton school boards to ensure future Milton schools are built in a timely fashion.

A motion to that effect was passed by town council at its meeting last week, when staff was also directed to explore potential formal partnerships with the boards regarding joint facilities like sports fields, libraries and theatres.

A report from Town Director of Planning and Development Mel Iovio to council explains that while the ongoing relationship with the school boards has generally worked well, there've been problems with new home ownership patterns and how they relate to schools.

"Coupled with the individual school boards' siting and area requirements, there have been situations where the site which had been identified (for a new school) is just no longer appropriate," it notes.

The motion approved by council also expresses support for the new high school the Halton District School Board is proposing at the intersection of Thompson Road and Louis St. Laurent Boulevard.

No contact allowed

• from HIT-AND-RUN page A1
reasons for granting bail.

As reported last week in The Champion, Lauren was struck by a vehicle while she was rollerblading between the hours of 8 and 10 p.m.

She was discovered by her father lying in a ditch close to their Second Line home, just north of No. 15 Sideroad, at about 10:40 p.m. She was pronounced dead at Milton District Hospital.

Alchin, of no fixed address, was arrested at the Halton Country Inn on Sixth Line in Nassagaweya just before 7 a.m. the next day.

His next court appearance is scheduled for August 16 in Milton.

Lauren's funeral is to take place today at 2 p.m. at Grace Anglican Church, 317 Main St.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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