

OPINION

Turner delivering on his promise

Roughly six months ago, shortly after being elected as a member of Stephen Harper's minority Conservative government, Garth Turner offered a refreshing take on his role as an MP.

He spoke of an intense desire to be a public servant of middle-class Canadians and to interact and connect with them through town hall meetings and today's rapidly-evolving computer technology. He also promised to speak his mind on issues — even if his point of view conflicted with that of the prime minister. Turner conceded that his unconventional approach would likely cost him any chance at a cabinet appointment. He was right.

Last week Turner was harshly criticized by fellow MP Omar Alghabra for suggesting residents of war-torn Lebanon who hold dual citizenship but haven't lived in Canada for several years should have to pay for their own evacuation.

Turner's words — while controversial — echo the thoughts of many Canadians who believe only permanent residents of our country should be entitled to hold Canadian passports.

The local MP's open approach in his first 180 days back in Ottawa (he previously served as the MP for the former riding of Halton-Peel from 1988-93) has been met with opposition by some Conservative Party of Canada faithfuls who label him a brash maverick intent on stirring up trouble by routinely bucking the party line.

Some Halton residents have gone so far as to suggest that they never would have voted for Turner had they known he was going to oppose his own party.

We remind the naysayers who suggest that Turner should have run as an independent that the Conservative Party was only too willing to welcome the veteran politician with open arms when there was an election to win.

What's most ironic about the criticism heaped upon Turner as he pursues issues that matter to ordinary Canadians is that he's simply keeping the promise that Stephen Harper and the Conservative Party made in the lead up to the January 23 election — to return integrity to Ottawa.

Turner should be applauded — not punished — for delivering on the campaign and post-election promises he made. Those who voted for the MP with the expectation that he would blindly follow the PM's every lead have only themselves to blame for supporting a candidate without reviewing his campaign platform.



Readers Write

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

Support of fundraiser appreciated

DEAR EDITOR:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your efforts in promoting our Smooth Jazz in the Country fundraising event June 6.

The posting of this event certainly helped to make the community aware of it and ensure good attendance.

As you know, the money raised at this event is going to Breast Cancer Support Services, a very worthwhile cause.

The services provided help women

who are suffering from the stress of breast cancer come together to share their concerns and fears with a very understanding and supportive group of women.

As a result of your participation — and that of many other supporters — we were able to raise \$17,000.

Thank you again. We very much appreciate your co-operation and support.

**HEATHER OLIVA, ORGANIZER
SMOOTH JAZZ IN THE COUNTRY**

Aroundtown

You can't judge a book — or a house — by its cover

Do you know what a marijuana grow-house looks like?

I thought I did. After all, I've written countless stories on the subject and know all the signs to look for.

But then I stopped by a McNeil Drive home that was the scene of a major marijuana plant seizure early Wednesday morning and the first thought that came to mind was, "This can't be the right house."

It just looked so, well, normal and well-kept. There were flowers in the garden, two cheery chairs on the porch and even a flower pot in a "welcome" plant stand, for Pete's sake. How could anyone suspect this house?

Looks can be deceiving.

Evidently, I wasn't the only surprised one. I chatted with a couple of neighbours on the street, who both said they'd had no idea. This is a family-oriented street, they both said.

Not the type of place where you would expect drugs to be grown.

For those who don't know, some of the signs to look out for are condensation on windows that are usually covered, and a lack of a "lived-in" look. Although, as I saw, that doesn't mean the house isn't well maintained.

In most cases, nobody actually lives there, said Det. Glenn Mannella of Halton Regional Police. As well, people may come and go at odd hours.

Milton Fire Department training technician Barry Kory emphasized the importance of shutting down these operations. They can be dangerous for the occupants, their neighbours and future homebuyers who might not be aware of dangerous mould lurking within



Stephanie Thiessen

the walls. Kory said they pose a great fire hazard since they often tap into hydro illegally and have equipment that can short circuit.

He said he thinks as Milton continues to grow, we'll have more of these illegal activities.

With a developing town come great conveniences. Unfortunately, it also offers a greater degree of anonymity for criminals.

One characteristic of a small town is everybody knows everybody else's business. That can be both good and bad, but when it comes to growhouses, watchful eyes are definitely good.

So keep your eyes and ears open. And don't be fooled by a pretty facade.

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 Miceli

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

Ontario Community Newspapers Association

Canadian Community Newspapers Association

Suburban Newspapers of America

The Canadian Champion is a proud media sponsor for:

Halton Healthcare Child Find ONTARIO

WELCOME WAGON LTD. SINCE 1900 Jingle Bell Fund MILTON CANADA DAY

UNITED WAY OF MILTON Relay For Life TY AUCTION MILTON SANTA CLAUS PARADE

YMCA OF CANADA

ATHENA Awards The Oakville, Milton

Showcase Milton GALA Awards

FAO POLICE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product