

Ward 4 hopeful Scherer wants to 'speak up' for Miltonians

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Ward 4 candidate Paul Scherer has a message for local residents — "Speak up, Milton."

That's the banner the active community volunteer is running under in this fall's municipal election against incumbents John Challinor and Wendy Schau and political newcomer John Daly.

The slogan, he explained, serves a dual purpose. "I'm trying to put myself forward as a strong voice for the people," he said. "And I'm also asking people — if they're not happy — to speak up and do something."

He told The Champion that many people have asked him to run for council this time around. But Scherer also has another reason for throwing his hat in the ring.

"I'm just not happy with the way things are," he said, pointing to the town's growth management as an example. "I was motivated to see if I can be elected to try to do something about the things I don't like."

On the growth front, Scherer said he thinks the Town needs to take a step back and put together a comprehensive

plan that engages both the residents and local government.

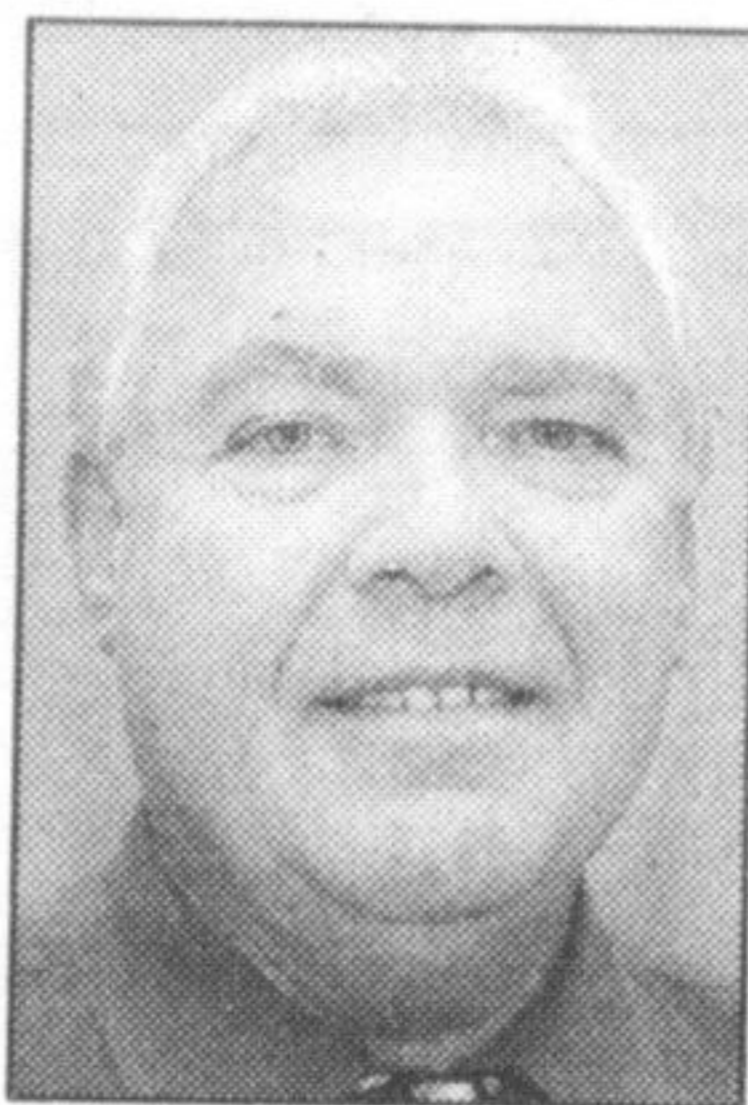
"We need to come up with a plan that makes sense — a plan that delivers services consistent with the growth rate," he said. "I'm in favour of matching growth to our capabilities as a community."

To fix Milton's current traffic woes that've resulted from the development boom, Scherer said road construction needs to be sped up, while at the same time growth has to be slowed down.

"We can't fix all of the problems that've been created overnight," he noted.

Scherer said he also supports minimizing taxes, explaining he believes savings can be found in the budget by taking a close look at where money is being spent in the first place.

"The biggest savings we'll achieve are through good planning," he said. "From running events, I've found if you don't plan properly, you tend to not spend as wisely."



Paul Scherer

And when it comes to the planned Town Hall expansion, Scherer said he feels it's wrong to build it now when there's other infrastructure that needs to be upgraded.

"We should take care of the basic needs of our citizens before we build things like a new Town Hall," he remarked.

Between now and the election, Scherer has committed to talking to as many ratepayers in Ward 4 as possible.

If elected, he said he wants to make sure taxpayers' rights are being respected, adding, "A great community is all about its citizens. Every step of the way, I would put them first."

Scherer, a married father of two, has lived in Milton since 1981. He's an entrepreneur who operates a small food brokerage business.

He's well known around town for his volunteer work, which includes organizing the Canada Day festivities and Santa Claus parade. He was also named Milton's Citizen of the Year in 2003. He can be reached at (905) 691-4288, (905) 876-2214 or paulscherer@bellnet.ca.

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

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