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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

OFF TO WAR: Matt Osborne, 20, left this week to serve in Afghanistan. His mom, Cindy Osborne, is proud but understandably worried.

Milton soldier off to fight Taliban

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Matt Osborne has been preparing for this week for the majority of his 20 years.

Since he was a child playing with army men, he's been waiting for the day he'd bravely take his spot on the battlefield, ready to serve his country.

That day has come, to his nervous excitement and his family's nervous apprehension.

On Wednesday, the Milton resident — whose 20th birthday is today — headed off to war, leaving behind his teen years and most

likely any remnants of youthful innocence.

Sometime this weekend — he wasn't sure exactly when, since the military runs on a need-to-know basis — Osborne is scheduled to arrive in Afghanistan to take his place on the frontlines, a battlefield no longer made up of plastic figures on tabletops, but flesh and war too much blood.

Osborne, described by his mom as a quiet, laid back type of guy, has never been overseas before. In fact, his only foray out of Canada was to Florida.

But very soon, Osborne will work with the Canadian Forces to help stop the Taliban from

advancing by preventing them from building weapon supplies and setting up camps.

Taking a break from packing and visiting friends last Friday, Osborne opened up and shared some of the thoughts going through his mind.

"I'm both nervous and excited," he said, adding, "I don't know what to expect... I've been here (Milton) all my life."

His decision to go overseas is far from spontaneous.

"This is something I wanted to do since I was a kid," he said. "This is pretty much the

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Councillors don't want power plant

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Town council is sending a message to the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) — it's opposed to Pristine Power's bid to build a power plant in east Milton.

At its meeting Monday night, council unanimously passed a motion put forward by Ward 1 Councillor Rick Day that calls for the OPA to be advised it doesn't support the natural gas-fired plant proposed for the terminus of Main Street, just east of Fifth Line.

"I feel that my duty as an incumbent councillor is to protect my residents from what certainly could be a serious environmental threat to their health and lifestyles," Day said.

"I believe that any doubt must be resolved in favour of the families whom

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Dear Friend: If you must go outside, I hope it is safe in your area. Vehicles and wildlife can be a threat to you. You must get your people to get you microchipped. If you get lost, and you end up in a shelter, the chip will tell them who you are.

Signed "Dolly"

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