

OPINION

We never take our election choices lightly

At election time, newspapers often publish their choices of candidates to represent their towns and cities.

Last Friday, for example, The Champion picked Brent Marshall as the best fit for Halton regional chair.

Such choices represent the opinion of the paper, not that of one person.

The choices are never taken lightly and thoughtful discussion takes place among staff before decisions are made.

There are some residents who believe newspapers have no business suggesting who it would like to see take the helm of the town or region.

After election editorials are in print there's often a flood of phone calls from people wondering why we would do such a thing.

Of course, if we select their candidate the paper receives high praise for being so progressive.

Newspapers provide opinions every day on their editorial pages. It's hoped that these editorials promote positive and healthy debate.

It's our job to get people thinking and reacting to what's going on in their community.

Obviously, not everyone will agree with what we have to say; that's one of the reasons we accept letters from the public.

We also expect e-mails to pour in from people who believe their candidate is a far better choice.

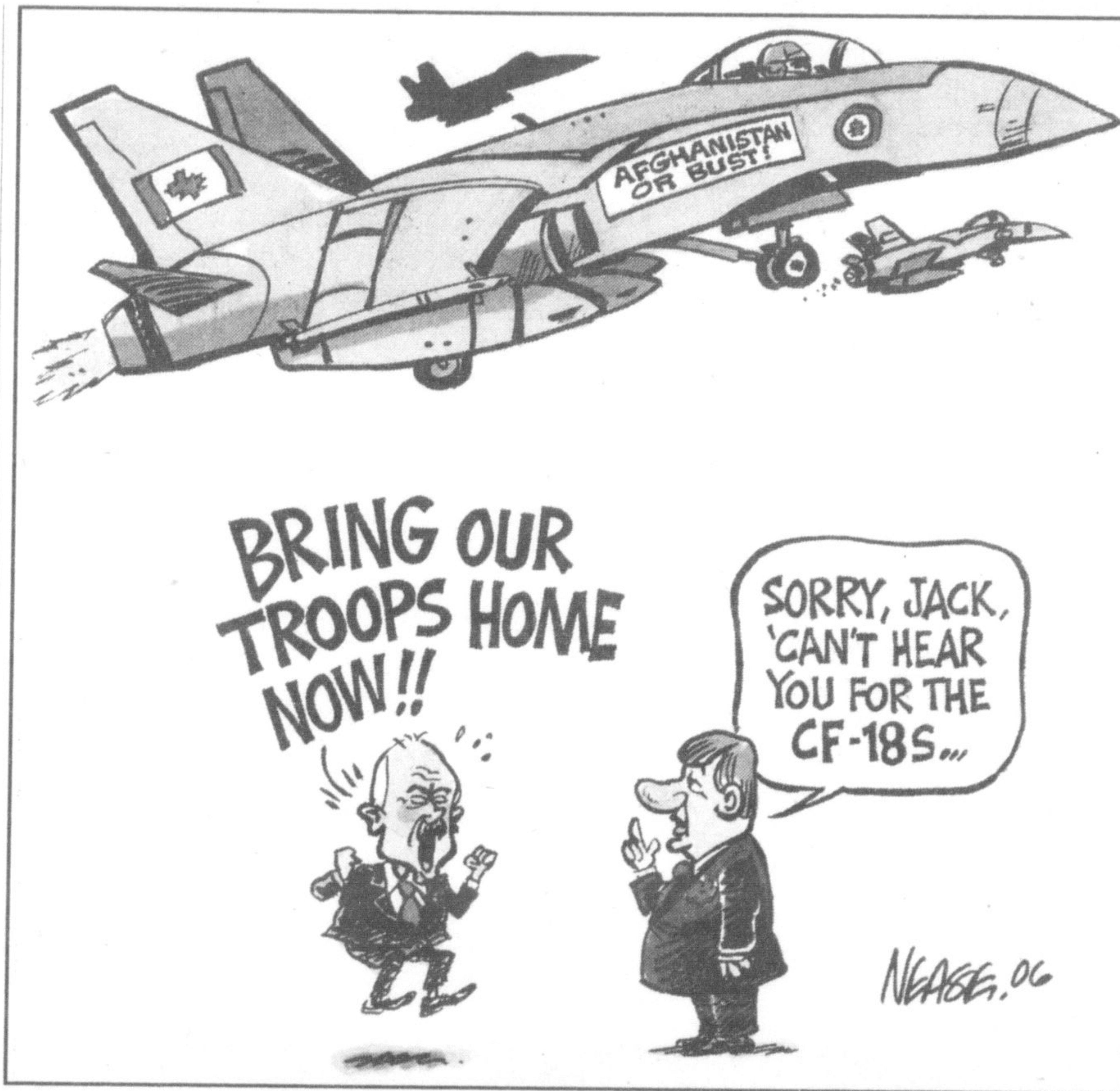
It's gratifying, though, to see so many people tossing their hat into that so-called political arena in an effort to better this community.

It's hard work being a politician and it's often a thankless task.

Politicians give up much and often get little in return — except for the personal satisfaction of knowing that they have improved the lives of the people who call this town home.

Society expects a lot from its elected officials and in the run-up to the November 13 municipal election all of the candidates deserve our attention and respect.

However, that doesn't stop the newspaper from giving its opinion — no matter how right or wrong you may think it is.



ReadersWrite

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

Blood donations greatly appreciated

DEAR EDITOR:

On behalf of Canadian Blood Services, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Milton donor clinic October 19 when we collected an impressive 129 units.

Since every unit of blood can help save or improve the lives of up to three people, your donations could help as many as 387 people in need.

A special thank-you goes out for the use of Milton Sports Centre, along with all of the many wonderful volunteers who helped make the day a success, and of course to all of those who came

out to donate. Thank you for being everyday heroes.

As the supplier of a national blood system, we're responsible for providing blood to all Canadians as needed. The need for blood is continually increasing, and your donations have truly made a difference in the lives of others.

Thank you for your continued support of the blood program. We look forward to seeing you at our next clinic November 11.

MARISSA D'ONOFRIO,
RECRUITMENT CO-ORDINATOR
CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

Editor'sdesk

When it comes to tough questions, chalk it up to experience

There's a lot to be said for experience.

I think incumbents certainly have a slight advantage when it comes to answering questions and attending all-candidates meetings just because of their broad knowledge of issues and experience in dealing with the public.

I'm speaking in particular about the responses given by candidates who completed the municipal election questionnaire conducted by the Milton Rural Residents Association. Part of the questionnaire is published in the 'B' section of today's Champion.

While I was disappointed that some of the incumbents' answers were limited, most provided solid responses from the perspective of 'been there, done that'. In essence, their responses reflected the reality of issues facing Milton based on their experiences.

The responses from incumbents John

Challinor, Jan Mowbray, Brian Penman and Wendy Schau rose above the others in that regard. Challinor was especially informative in his answers.

But that's not to knock the new candidates, many of whom I thought were impressive in their responses and knowledge of issues. Their advantage is they can bring the fresh perspectives people are often looking for.

Wards 2 and 4 local/regional councillor candidate Nicki Ward was particularly thorough in her answers and might be a good addition to council.

A newcomer getting elected to that major seat will be difficult, however, as Ward's running against well-respected incumbent Ron Furik and heavy-hitting challengers Rick

Malboeuf and Colin Best, who are both former councillors.

All in all, I found the questionnaire — which can be read in its entirety at www.milton-ra.org — to be informative and a good way to judge where candidates stand on issues and the nature of their character.

I wouldn't base my vote solely on the responses in the questionnaire, but it's certainly a valuable resource in the process of choosing a candidate.

I suggest voters save The Champion's four-page section if they don't have time to read it right now and also check out the rest of the questions and answers on the Internet.

Karen Miceli can be reached at miltone@haltonsearch.com.



Karen Miceli

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

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 a division of Metroland Media Group West — Group Publisher Ian Oliver.

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