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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

SAYING THANK YOU: Ward 2 Councillor Mark Curtis and supporter Bill Patterson were up early the morning after the election thanking voters as they travelled along the eastbound Hwy. 401 on-ramp at Regional Road 25. Curtis was re-elected along with Mike Boughton in Ward 2.

Milton not chosen for power plant

Miltonians will no doubt be relieved with news that Pristine Power won't be operating a hydro plant in Milton.

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) has signed a 20-year contract with TransCanada Corp. for a 683-megawatt (MW), gas-fired generating station at the southwest corner of Steeles Avenue and Sixth Line South in Halton Hills.

The OPA made the announcement yesterday after considering four area power plant proposals, two in Milton.

The proposal by Pristine Power at Main Street and Fifth Line was by far the most controversial for Miltonians who expressed strong opposition to such a plant operating so close to a residential area.

But Milton Councillor Rick Day, who had

concerns about the environmental impacts of all four of the proposed generating stations, is critical of Halton Hills council for supporting the TransCanada project.

"If they took money to allow these people to pollute, then shame on them," said Day, who represents Ward 1 urban and rural east Milton residents who live south of the 401, many not far from the Halton Hills plant.

But Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette disagreed. "I think that was smart business on the part of the Town," he said.

"We may have got this whether council supported this application or not, but at least we had our ducks in a row ahead of time. I think Mr. Day is just trying to fear-monger, as he did during his re-election quest."

Day said he intends, however, to ask for a

"bump up" of the environmental assessment process TransCanada must go through for the Halton Hills plant so "it's site specific and much more thorough."

"Halton Hills has skipped all those safeguards," said Day.

He said he also wants Milton's planners and lawyers to review the Halton Hills zoning bylaw and the council procedure followed in making the decision to endorse the plant.

The power plant in Halton Hills' 401 corridor is expected to be up and running by 2010.

"The need for new (hydro) generation to serve customers located primarily in Halton region and the city of Mississauga has been identified for some time," said an OPA spokesperson in a news release.

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Turner gets turfed again

By Jason Misner
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Maverick Halton MP Garth Turner won't be feeling blue anymore after the national party council moved to disallow him from running again as a candidate for the Halton Conservative riding association.

It's the second time in less than a month the rogue MP has been rebuked by the Conservatives. Last month the Conservative government turfed Turner from the party's caucus for allegedly breaking confidentiality through postings on his Web site.

The Turner turmoil is also causing some strife in the local association.

Turner, a lifelong Tory, told The Champion Wednesday he was informed of the decision through a letter he received last Friday. He said he's perturbed at being notified this way, for not being given an explanation and that

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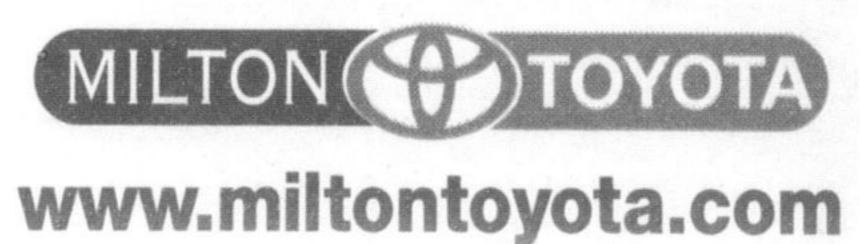
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