

OPINION

Honouring youth

Most people appreciate a little recognition for their contributions, but unfortunately we can all be somewhat negligent in giving it.

As Milton's community newspaper, we're proud to be able to offer the 2006 Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Awards so we can recognize the outstanding efforts and achievements of young people — right here on these pages.

Please help us by nominating a young person aged 6 to 17 who's involved in community service; has performed acts of heroism; is contributing to the community while living with limitations; or is a good kid who shows a commitment to make life better for others, possibly doing things not expected of someone his or her age.

Co-ordinated by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association (OCNA) and supported financially by Tembec Inc. and TD Canada Trust, this program recognizes all young people nominated. Each nominee receives a certificate of recognition from their community newspaper.

Up to 12 nominees and one group from across the province are then chosen as the final recipients to receive 2006 Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Awards during a special ceremony in March 2007. Nominations will be accepted until November 30.

Further information about the awards program is available on-line at www.ocna.org (click on the Awards link), or by calling the OCNA at (905) 639-8720, ext. 235.



ReadersWrite

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

It'll be a busy and exciting four years for new council

DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to congratulate Gord Krantz on his successful bid to again be the mayor of Milton.

I'm truly impressed by his dedication to fulfill his role of office for as long as he has, and to still have the desire to run again and continue to serve. To me, it shows a real love for the town of Milton. I'd like to thank the 3,363 Miltonians — 28.57 per cent of the eligible voters — who showed confidence in me and gave me their vote. I'd especially like to thank those that helped during my campaign.

I believe that Milton is a town with great potential, and it's my hope that every effort is made to take advantage of the opportunity to continue to keep Milton a great place to live and work.

Let's make sure that we capitalize on the experiences of other towns that have gone through the growth that Milton is now experiencing and learn what has been done right and avoid any mistakes.

Let's explore the possibilities of expanded greenspaces. Why not have an expanded greenbelt along the rail lines, for example?

Let's make sure we have trails that are truly connected. And let's make sure the design of our roads accommodate cyclists, both in town and on the rural roads. A widening of the rural roads would make it safer for the farmers moving machinery as well.

There's more to planning than just

determining what areas are residential and which are industrial. Let's provide detail as to what density of housing we are looking for, what type of industry or business in each area we should have. And how can we buffer residential areas from industrial ones?

How do we attract people to the downtown area and keep it vibrant? Is there any way to accommodate the arts centre into the downtown area rather than isolated out at Main Street and Thompson Road?

What plans do we have for additional recreational facilities, given the increase in population? When will the sports centre be expanded, and will the new rinks have appropriate seating to allow for viewing of the games?

What actions are being taken with the Region and Province to ensure that health care services keeps pace with need? Let's not forget about schools as well. And what are the plans to ensure that road infrastructure is in place when needed for growth that's now starting in the west end of town? We need public transit that works.

These are just some of the many areas I think will require careful attention, and I will be looking for opportunities to get involved and provide assistance wherever possible.

Once again, congratulations Mayor Krantz on your win. It will be a busy and exciting four years.

GERRY MARSH
MAYORAL CANDIDATE

Paws for Thought support was much appreciated

DEAR EDITOR:

The Paws for Thought event, held October 1 at St. Paul's United Church, was a huge success.

We were able to raise over \$2,000 for local animal shelters and find homes for two dogs and three kittens. The event also raised awareness in our community on the needs of the shelters. In addition to the money raised at the event, Miltonians contributed various animal-related items that were badly needed.

This event was made possible by The Champion's media coverage and by local businesses that dug deep into their already depleted donation budgets and provided some amazing items for our silent auction.

I would also like to thank Pet Valu, Global Pet Foods, Ren's and Ruffins for their continued support. These locations will continue to take your donations from now until Christmas. If you are interested in donating, but not sure what to donate, the participating stores will have a list of much-needed items.

CATHY PRENTER
JUST PAWS

Best of luck to new council

DEAR EDITOR:

I'd first of all like to congratulate Colin Best on his election victory and thank outgoing councillor Ron Furik for his 15 years of service on council.

Though disappointed in the election results, I accept the decision of Milton voters and wish the new council all the best as they face the many challenges ahead. Their task won't be easy, but I know they will do the best they can.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported me in this election, as well as all of those who participated in this election.

RICK MALBOEUF, CANDIDATE
WARDS 2 AND 4 REGIONAL COUNCIL

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