

OPINION

Places to 'Groan'

While Halton's elected officials recently pumped up the volume on their protest of the provincial Places To Grow plan, Premier Dalton McGuinty and his government appeared to be turning a deaf ear.

The premier was conveniently pre-occupied by an announcement of his own when the political contingent that calls itself 'Durable Halton' came calling.

Unfortunately few media outlets normally assigned to cover Queen's Park were in attendance for the Toronto press conference hosted by Regional chair Gary Carr and mayors Gord Krantz (Milton), Cam Jackson (Burlington), Rob Burton (Oakville) and Rick Bonnette (Halton Hills).

Despite the hollow reception, Carr and the mayoral

quartet have pledged to continue to challenge the Province to explain how municipalities are to fund the population increases outlined in the plan.

While growth is inevitable, Halton's elected officials raise a valid point when they suggest the region can't be expected to cope with a 68 per cent population increase in the next 24 years, while simultaneously sending tens of millions of dollars to Toronto each year to help fund its social services.

With Carr encouraging voters to make Places To Grow a provincial election issue, it may only be a matter of time before the premier will be forced to answer the questions he and his government have so far managed to duck.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com.

Town's growth out of hand

DEAR EDITOR:

The type of growth Milton is experiencing now is unsustainable and irresponsible.

The town residents have been severely inconvenienced by council's greedy approach to development. Not even the oil boom towns in Alberta can dream of supporting growth like this. What makes council think that Milton can?

Milton's infrastructure can't support this kind of growth. Public transportation, health services, education, recreational facilities, roads and services are all lagging because of this irresponsible approach by our local government. Now even the Niagara Escarpment is under threat.

It's up to our MPs, MPPs and council members to protect what should be the pride of our region. Our politicians have been very quick to join the 'Green' bandwagon. I say to them, 'Show Me'. Stop this irresponsible development and potential environmental disaster.

**MAURICE RIVAS
MILTON**

Sweetheart Basket draw a great idea

DEAR EDITOR:

As the winner of the Downtown Business Improvement Area's (DBIA) Valentine Sweetheart Basket draw, I would like to show my appreciation to all the downtown businesses that contributed to the basket.

It is an excellent idea to have such a draw because it encourages people to shop in downtown Milton. It is important that Milton has a viable downtown core year-round.

**MARGARET GRAY
MAPLEWOOD CRESCENT**

Furthermore, it seems to me — and I have expressed this concern before — that our local government is favouring the newly-developed areas over the well-established west end of Milton, a factor referred to as well in last week's Toronto Star report.

Mayor Gord Krantz's comment in the Star that "You can't survive on sentiment and emotions" says it all. Mayor Krantz, I'm very glad I didn't vote for you. You are out of touch with Milton's proud history and tradition. You have sold your seat to big box business and developers, and thrown away the heart and soul of our beautiful community. The mayor and council should be ashamed of themselves.

I call for a moratorium on all development, and for protection of our green spaces and farmland in the vicinity of Milton until a proper assessment is done to guarantee that our town can support it and preserve it.

Turner's comments on Green Party misleading

DEAR EDITOR:

I just want to clarify something from a report in the March 13 Champion by Melanie Cummings on a meeting hosted by Halton MP Garth Turner.

Turner is reported to have said that he did not become the first Green Party Member of Parliament because its platform is focused on just one issue, the environment. He then said that wouldn't satisfy his constituents. Then in the second half of the meeting his constituents proceeded to talk only of the environment. Gee Garth, it seems you don't have an idea about what would satisfy your constituents.

Turner had several meetings last fall to ask his constituents what he should do in his future endeavours as a politician, and out of 150 people responding only two said go Liberal. So who is Turner listening to anyway? He does not seem to be listening to his constituents.

For him to make a comment that the Green Party platform is only about the environment tells me he has never read the platform. His leader has read it and even stole the Green slogan of economical prosperity, social justice and environmental sustainability.

Although I do have to agree with Turner: he does not fit as a Green. As a Green we are for lower taxes on what we want like income and profit and higher taxes on what we don't want like pollution and waste. We are for improving Canada's democratic process and giving the individual more say in Ottawa, first by changing our voting system to proportional representation. We are for supporting the health-care system while also funding more health promotion programs.

In fact we have policy on all topics a government is required to address. We make these policies with the consequences of today and the future.

Green talk is everywhere — the newspapers, magazines and TV. Perhaps it's time to vote green too.

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