

# Development shouldn't come at expense of downtown core

## DEAR EDITOR:

Mayor Gord Krantz's cavalier comments in the March 14 Toronto Star regarding the slow demise of downtown Milton show a prevalent attitude found in not only the mayor but the Town's administration as a whole.

While businesses do have to constantly reinvent themselves, the municipality needs to have some consideration and forethought in planning the overall well being of the entire town. While Krantz says "it's up to stores to adapt," isn't it also up to the Town to adapt? We have seen little planned development, just rampant development.

We have visited Milton often for several years and for the past three years we've lived in Milton, and in those three years we haven't seen the powers-that-be do anything positive for downtown Milton.

We read of the proposed removal of pedestrian crossings, thus making it difficult for anyone wanting to walk anywhere downtown. We've seen signs saying cars have priority over people trying to cross in what were once designated crossing areas. We hear of possibly putting in parking metres, while —

I understand — there are businesses already paying a parking fee to the Town.

We see trash piled up and overflowing in the downtown bins, not just for a day or two, but pretty much every time we take a stroll downtown, which is several times a week.

Did the developers of the new shopping complexes receive tax breaks or other enticements to locate in Milton? If they did that's okay, but did the downtown merchants get any incentives to stay? Downtown Milton could thrive with some consideration and planning from the Town officials. Look at Downtown Oakville. To us, Oakville looks like a town where the officials and the business people worked hand-in-hand to better both worlds. We haven't seen that type of partnership here.

I worked for a Town for 17 years and do know a little about Towns and development. I do know that our planner, zoning official and economic development people were constantly working on the future development of the town while keeping in mind the importance of its core.

The rural town I worked for had residential areas and busi-

nesses integrated, creating neighbourhoods while always keeping the environment and the townspeople in mind. We haven't witnessed, or even heard talk of, such a goal for Milton.

The environmental experts call for fuel conservation, yet Milton shows great concern only for vehicles. Health experts call for more exercise in people's lives, yet Milton is moving to making crossing streets downtown a chore, thus discouraging walkers.

Most cities and towns are striving to enhance and build up their downtown. What has Milton done in that direction? Most cities and towns are moving in the direction of thriving, green municipalities. Milton seems to me to be moving backward instead of forward.

Yes, businesses constantly need to reinvent themselves, but so do Towns. Administration should look to not only future development, but also the future of what is already in Milton. You don't look at one area at the exclusion of the other. That's poor planning.

Isn't that, in essence, what Krantz is telling us the businesses are guilty of?

**MARGARET WALLACE  
ROBERT STREET**

# Milton not the right place for plant

• from POWER on page A6

smog will have to travel across the Milton community before it reaches the escarpment.

If you have watched An Inconvenient Truth, do you not feel awakened with a sense of purpose or obligation to save our environment? We are already making smaller differences by using energy efficient light bulbs and programmable thermostats, and we all have been recycling for some time.

Why stop there? This is an opportunity for us as a community to pull together and face a much larger threat, one that will affect us first before any other community. The consequences seem obvious — gas fired plant produces smog, community gets lung cancer.

A source I have read states that the massive power outage in August 2003 was caused by a

lightning strike at a power plant on the U.S. side of Niagara Falls. Nowhere was it mentioned that the outage was caused by over-consumption.

I believe Paxton has ulterior motives in his plea to consider allowing a polluting plant to be built near Milton while ignoring the consequences simply because we have to satisfy power demand.

Milton is not the right place to build polluting power plants. Alternatives such as wind and solar energy do have a place, perhaps on top of the mountain range along Milton. Perhaps Milton residents can attach wind generators and solar panels to their homes and businesses.

Either way, it's beneficial for us to set precedents and show everyone that smog will not be thrown down our throats if we can help it.

**THOMAS GWOZDZ  
MILTON**

# Fine flow of natural gas found; more area drilling is expected

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of *The Champion* and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

July 1909

The Halton Oil & Gas Co.'s drill struck the granite last week at a depth of 1,660 feet without having struck a flow of oil. Yesterday, Mr. Thompson, the driller in charge, together with Morgan Crewson, was in town and reported having obtained a fine flow of natural gas, which becoming ignited is burning at time of going to press, flames reaching over 10 feet high. Mr. Thompson says it is difficult at this stage to exactly estimate the quantity of gas which can ultimately be obtained but he is making preparations for capping the well. At a meeting of the directors held in Milton on Friday evening it was decided to remove the drilling outfit to Milton and try another spot close to the town, where indications for oil are considered very favourable.

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The report for 1908 of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities shows 143 committals to Milton jail, three of them of women, an increase of 33 over the number for 1907. The number of committals for drunkenness was the same in each of the two years, six. The cost of daily rations per prisoner was 8.05 cents.

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Work on the new bandstand in the court house park will begin tomorrow. The town will furnish electric lights for it.

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The first Willmott binder was given a strong trial on Tuesday afternoon in cutting a five acre field of wheat on A.S. Willmott's farm, first line. The machine started without a hitch, and did excellent work. Mr. Duclipp, superintendent, Mr. Henderson chief expert and C.R. Willmott, president, say the results are pleasing.

## Milton Time Capsules



August 1909

The new band stand in the court house park was most successfully opened on Friday evening. The band played a number of high-class selections in its best style and Carey Bros. exhibited a fine lot of new moving pictures. Reeve Earl, Councillors Deacon and Griffith and E. Syer made short speeches. There was no admission fee, the attendance was very large and the silver collection generous, the total receipts amounting to about \$40. The entertainment having been such a great success it was announced that several more of the same kind would be given before the cold weather sets in. The stand is hexagonal, is substantially built, has twelve electric lamps and when the painting is finished, will be an ornament to the park and a credit to the town.

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Milton Fire Brigade went to Paris yesterday accompanied by the band and citizens to take part in the big annual competition of the Provincial Volunteer Firemen's Association. Altogether about 275 Miltonians and 25 from Campbellville travelled by the C.P.R. special. Georgetown sent a team and band and Acton brigade went but did not compete. The Milton boys covered themselves with glory. They proved to be the crack team of the competition winning first prize in the hose reel race and second in the hook and ladder race while Firemen Fleming and Ryder won prizes in foot races. There was great rejoicing here when the excursionists got home at about 11 p.m. There was a torchlight procession from the train, followed by a big bonfire opposite the Hotel McGibbon.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills; who can be reached at [jdills@direct.com](mailto:jdills@direct.com).



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