

Councillor's ongoing fight over power plant tough to swallow

DEAR EDITOR:

I am writing in regard to the article concerning councillor Rick Day's continuing battle against the proposed electrical generating power plant in the June 1 Champion.

It comes as little surprise that Halton will need additional electrical generating power to keep pace with the projected population growth. According to the Provincial Growth Plan, Halton's population is expected to increase to 780,000 people by 2031, roughly double its present population.

In spite of the growing demand for electrical generating capacity, Day was a vocal opponent of the Pristine Power proposal in Milton, supporting a council resolution to oppose the proposal.

Residents have been shocked and dismayed to find that the chosen location in Halton Hills at Steeles Avenue and Sixth Line is only a short distance from the Milton site proposed by Pristine Power.

Milton council and residents now find that they have far less influence over the final development since the development will be located in another jurisdiction.

Yet Day continues to demand answers from Halton Hills council on recent decisions and criticize results of its negotiations with TransCanada.

Halton Hills council is accountable to its citizens, not to Milton council. Anyone interested in council decisions can

always read the minutes to find out why a decision was made or attend the council sessions. Halton Hills had access to the same reports as Milton council and understood that the projected growth in the region would necessitate increased electrical generating capacity.

Halton Hills council therefore decided to become part of the process and work towards getting the best possible development to balance the needs of its residents with the requirement for expanded generating capacity.

The resulting generating station will bring significant benefits to Halton Hills, including jobs, tax revenue, parkland and capital for infrastructure.

In contrast to Day's assertions, recent articles about the development present a visually-attractive facility, with emissions that will exceed provincial air quality standards. In the June 1 article, councillor Colin Best was quoted as saying that the stacks from the power generating facility would ruin the view of the escarpment.

The proposed facility will be a considerable distance from the escarpment, and in my opinion will not ruin the view any more than any of the existing high-rise buildings in Milton.

What seems apparent is that Milton will not receive any benefit whatsoever from the new facility, something Day seems unwilling to acknowledge.

This issue has highlighted two different responses to the

challenges of a rapidly-growing community. One is reactionary and confrontational, while the other is a pragmatic, pro-active management approach that identifies the long-term needs and growth trends of the community and works toward measurable goals and objectives. The effectiveness of these two approaches can be judged from their results.

The population growth of our community has been determined by the Province, and how our local government meets that challenge will determine the quality of life in our community.

Thank you to the *Champion* for its recent series of articles highlighting council discussions of subjects such as the Green Cart program.

It is very helpful to residents in their efforts to understand these issues and the different options that are presently being considered.

It also helps us to understand the areas of responsibilities of our local government and to be more realistic in our expectations of elected representatives. We cannot reasonably expect a local politician to stop Ontario Power Generation from locating an electrical generating station in Halton, or for that matter exercising any more than limited influence over the decisions of a crown corporation.

Our councillors deserve our respect for taking on a difficult and often thankless job.

**SOPHIE CHENEY
CAMPBELLVILLE**

Town council quorum discusses appointing municipal officials

'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.

January 1910

Town council got its quorum on Monday evening and discussed the proposed bylaw to appoint municipal officers. It is understood that the offices of clerk and treasurer will be combined with perhaps another added. There is no objection to this, but, a suitable man having been found, he should be paid a reasonable salary. He will have to be on duty from early morning until late evening every working day of the year, he must have exceptional qualifications and he should get more than laborer's wages.

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At the annual meeting of the Milton Horticultural and Local Improvement Society, officers elected: Pres. A. Higginbotham; 1st vice Jas. Dent; 2nd vice J.M. Bastedo; Directors Mesdames Storey, W.J. Dewar, R. Ellis, A. Higginbotham, Messrs Geo. S. Bowes, R.H. Hare, E. Syer, D. Hartley, H.P. Wanzer; Sec-treas. H.P. Wanzer; Auditors Dr. Robertson, C.E. Hollinrake. The society is very much gratified with the results of it working so far, although as yet not a year old. The members see a splendid opportunity in the work of the society and are enthusiastic for the year which it has just entered. Last year the society without the government grant, gave prizes aggregating \$30 and also gave free to every member \$1 worth of tulip bulbs. This year, with 100 members, the society will receive a grant of \$100 from the government, which will make \$200 to be distributed amongst the members for beautifying their homes, donating prizes and in other ways assisting in beautifying our town.

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J.A. Ellis, architect, of Toronto, who makes school buildings a specialty was here on Monday. He visited the public schools in company with all the trustees except Dr. Robertson who was kept at home by illness. Mr. Ellis condemned the buildings (Bruce St. School). He

**JUDY CLIFFORD
MILTON**

Milton Time Capsules



found them much too small for the 485 pupils now enrolled, this causing overcrowding in the departments. The ventilation was faulty. Lighting was so bad that it could hardly fail to have an injurious effect on the eyes of the pupils. The walls were cracked and in poor repair. More room was needed for the library and the continuation classes' laboratory. The closets were unsanitary.

Mr. Ellis took measurements for remodeling the buildings, adding three rooms, providing ventilation, steam heating, lavatories, etc. In due time he will submit his plans and estimates. Before Mr. Ellis's visit the trustees were unanimous in the opinion that the buildings must be remodeled or, if this could not be done to advantage, new buildings should be erected. They were conscious of the defects pointed out by the architect and that insufficient as the accommodation was, it was likely to become more so on account of the probably rapid increase in the population of the town within the next year or so. When Mr. Ellis submits his plans it will be decided whether to remodel the buildings or erect new ones and a plebiscite of the ratepayers taken.

February 1910

The town council has appointed G.A. Hemstreet Clerk, Treasurer and Collector of waterworks and electric light rates. The town is fortunate enough in getting the services of a man of his business ability and long experience in municipal matters at a salary which he is to receive, \$520 a year.

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Palermo will fit up the old temperance hall as a public hall and many residents have signed subscription list to raise funds for cement walks, toward which the township council is asked to give a grant.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached at jdills@direct.com.

Bad decision made about pesticides

• from TOWN on page A6

• Pay more attention to someone who has "worked with pesticides for over 35 years" than those who care (College of Family Physicians, Registered Nurses Association, Canadian Cancer Society....) for our health. This is similar to agreeing with a smoker who says that he has smoked for years and sees no benefit to the smoking bylaws that we have come to depend on.

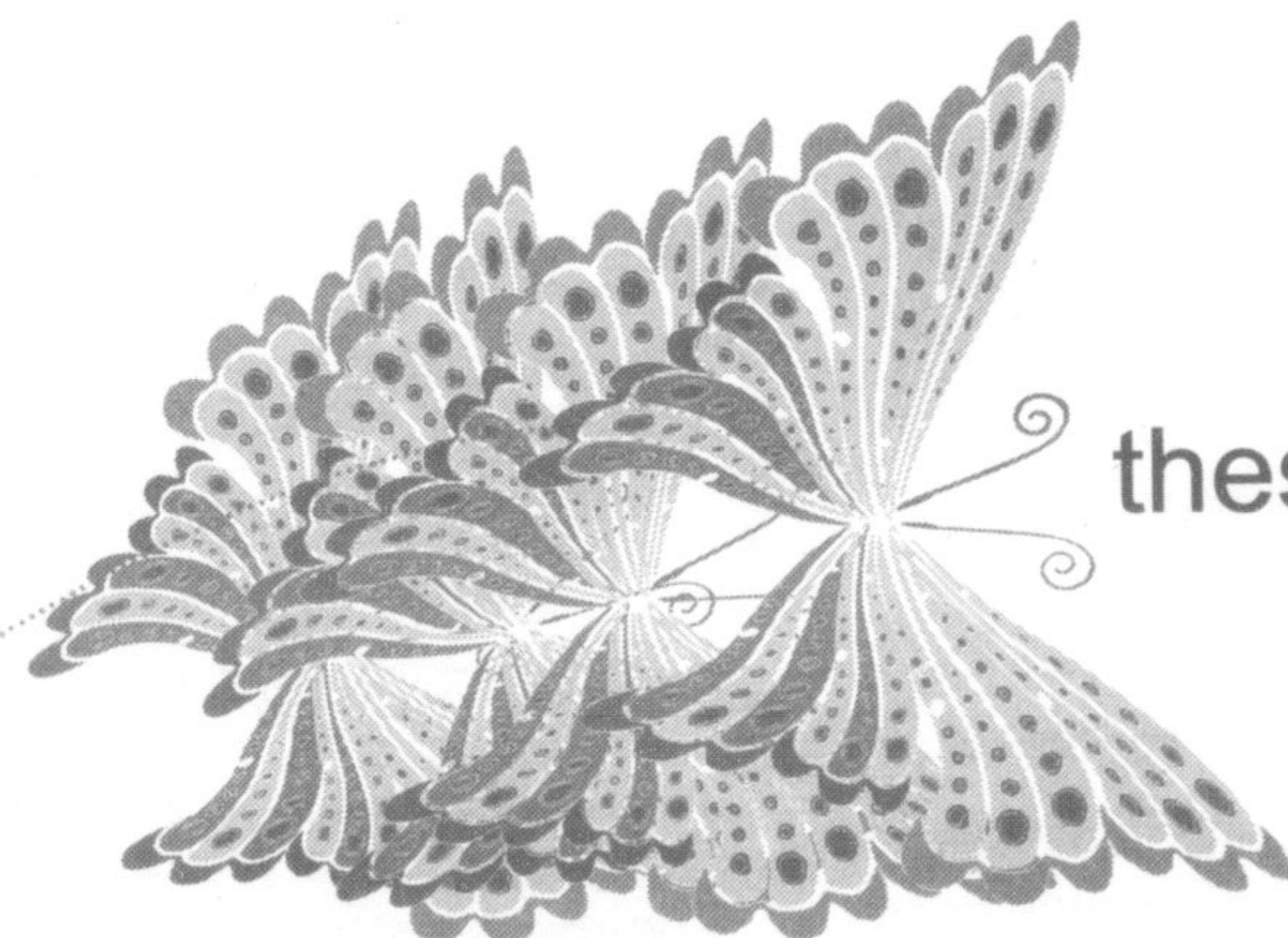
• Wait for a higher level of government to act rather than providing leadership at the local level. We need council to make a stand for our health by developing a Made-In-Milton cosmetic pesticide bylaw now.

• Disregard the direction of Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's Chief Medical Officer of Health, who in an official statement indicated, "Given this evidence, the precautionary principle applies. The Medical Officer of Health believes that pesticide use should be avoided when the only benefit is an aesthetic one."

I am very disappointed in this current council, with the exception of the enlightened few. Do the council members not see the link between our health and the use of pesticides?

**JUDY CLIFFORD
MILTON**

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR



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