

OPINION

Announcements simply ring false

Clear case of pre-election campaigning

Maybe we should hold a provincial election every year? That way, we wouldn't have to wait four years for the government of the day to shell out our tax money for projects we have been waiting for funding for several years.

Lately, the major government funding announcements have become a little more frequent and some a little more suspect.

Take the most recent announcement that the Province is providing Halton Healthcare Services with \$12.5 million in funding to plan the new Oakville hospital in north Oakville — which will no doubt service a good portion of local residents from town, particularly as our population continues to grow.

Also part of Monday's announcement was the fact that Milton District Hospital will get a \$2.5 million injection for renovations and service upgrades.

Granted this is good news, and the money is welcome, but when the Province held a press conference back in March to announce a new hospital would be built on the Dundas Street and Third Line site by 2013, does anyone believe they didn't know who was going to fund the planning for the hospital?

Instead, at a time when governments are supposed to be conscious of their carbon footprint on the planet, the Province invites everyone back to the same site three months later for another announcement.

Last month, the Liberals held another major press conference to announce the start of construction on a third main-line GO Transit Track between neighbouring communities Mississauga and Oakville. Trouble was, construction had already begun in April and the plans for the track had been announced months before. The major announcement really had nothing new to announce.

Obviously, these announcements are part of a well-orchestrated pre-election campaign by the Liberals designated to achieve maximum public exposure — all at the expense of the taxpayers, who foot the bill for this expensive pre-election campaign.

It's a practice that has been followed by nearly every ruling party of every level of government since Confederation. Quite frankly, however, it's become a tiresome practice. We deserve better.



ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to miltoned@haltonsearch.com.

Abbamania concert the perfect highlight for Milton's Canada Day

DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank his Worship, Mayor Gord Krantz, councillor Cindy Lunau, 150th Anniversary Master Committee members, Town of Milton staff, sponsor Heathwood Homes, Canada Day Committee members and all of the volunteers in making Canada Day's Abbamania performance a great success.

To the staging, sound and production staff, manager Gary Lichach and the cast of Abbamania, thank you.

Without the long volunteer hours and planning, this major event wouldn't have been possible.

The funding for this event was provided by the 150th Anniversary Master Committee.

This is what Milton is saying about
• see RAVE on page A7

Aroundtown

Knowing when to let go the hardest part of owning a pet

Our pets certainly have a way of wiggling and worming their way into our hearts, don't they? Furry, smooth, feathered or scaled, pets can charm, cajole and cuddle with the best of 'em.

My new husband and I recently adopted a kitten — we named her Chloe — from a nearby animal shelter, and it's fair to say she's been the centre of our lives for the past three weeks.

It's funny how a two-pound ball of fur can keep your hands so entirely full. Whether we're chasing her across the room or rescuing our adult cat, Oscar, from her constant desire to wrestle, it seems like a full-time job.

Chloe actually started out an Oliver. Yup, apparently it's not a given that shelter staff can tell the males from the females.

Taking on a pet is a huge commitment, something I realize more and more every day.

Pets require time, energy and money. They can bring mounds of joy but, as I've seen lately in two sad instances, also wreak havoc on your emotions.

Taking home a pet means pledging to be a responsible pet owner for the duration of that animal's life. For now, responsible pet ownership for me means keeping Chloe indoors, micro-chipping her and committing to spay her.

But at another stage in her life, being a good owner might mean knowing when to let go.

Fortunately, I haven't yet had to make the difficult decision to put down a pet. But my friend Melissa had to go through that recently after her beloved pooch Wilson just wasn't enjoying life anymore.

And more recently in town, a resident

named George decided to have his German shepherd, Shadow, euthanized after the dog attacked a woman a few weeks ago. Although George initially said he was going to fight to keep Shadow alive, he later changed his mind.

As much as there's a commitment to our pets' wellbeing, there's also one to the safety of those around us.

The decision was one George and his wife grappled with, but it was undoubtedly the right one.

If only all pet parents were as responsible. Animal ownership isn't something to take lightly. They need to be taken care of for better or worse, in sickness and health, for richer or poorer, 'til death do you part. And sometimes difficult decisions need to be made. Just ask Melissa and George.



Stephanie Hounsell

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