

Call for change rings hollow

DEAR EDITOR:

The more complaints I read about council and articles like Melanie Hennessey's recent comments on the byelection, the harder it is for me to avoid laughing.

The real problem isn't really council, it's the community.

For nearly two-and-a-half years prior to last November's election, the *Champion* was inundated with calls for change, calls for new leadership and calls for a new direction. Yet we the voters re-elected nine of 11 members of council.

How does anyone expect to get change that way? What happened to our outrage and dissatisfaction? Where was the courage to back up the calls for change with action?

We, as a community, need to examine how we choose our council.

After a rather blunt exchange with a constituent during last November's campaign, I finally began to understand the voting mentality of the 'establishment' in Ward 2. I was told the reason this constituent wasn't going to support my candidacy was not because I didn't have the ability or skills to do the job, but because they didn't think the message on my answering machine was of a sufficiently serious nature to be a councillor.

Great logic to determine a person's qualifications to lead.

And I confess my reply to this constituent was less than politically correct, and considerably less than polite, not because I set out to be rude or alienate a voter, but because I was brought up to say what I think and believe. In short, I was raised to tell the truth, even if it isn't popular.

The 'establishment' wants councillors who dress, look and talk like politicians, regardless of what abilities they bring to the table. The voters want political correctness. The voters want everything to be positive. The voters want nice, sweet words that always paint a rosy picture.

The voters accuse a candidate of mudslinging if they point out a shortcoming in another candidate, even if the statement is true and the flaw is relevant to the ability to do the job for which they are running.

Unfortunately, the fact of life is that the truth isn't always nice, it isn't always pretty and often it offends people's sense of etiquette and propriety.

The problem is that for the last 20 years this is what we as a community have done, and look where it's gotten us. Infrastructure development is years behind in necessary upgrades, the hospital is far too small for our community, council time after time votes itself pay raises while telling us that we're going to have to dig deeper into our pockets to pay ever-increasing taxes, councils do what they choose to do regardless of public opinion, traffic is grid-locked and councillors preach one set of values during a campaign and follow another after being elected.

In short, I hope when the time comes to pick our next council, each voter looks into a mirror and asks if they are part of Milton's solution or part of Milton's problem.

I am sure that there are some who will accuse me of being bitter because of the election results, and yes in some ways I am. I was born in Milton hospital and have lived here my entire life, and it's hard to watch this community decline because we lack the will to do what is necessary to stop it.

I am also sure that I am making myself something of an outcast by criticizing the community at large. If this is the price of speaking the truth, so be it. However, for those who doubt the validity of my assertions, let's look no further than some of council's actions this year alone.

- A candidate who rallied against fiscal management has become a councillor who has no problem voting himself a 19 per cent pay hike.
- Council refuses to take action on a pesticide bylaw.
- Council allows numerous trees to be cut down for a temporary parking lot — despite strong local objections — for a project whose budget continues to climb.
- A councillor makes what some find inappropriate and inaccurate statements regarding local driving habits.

And finally, to those who say Milton's growth means that Milton is improving because we have things like a Wal-Mart and other shopping destinations, a soon-to-be-improved Town Hall or a movie theatre, I would ask these simple questions.

Is a community with insufficient school space better? Is a community with too few hospital beds better? Is a community with outdated roads better? And is a community where developers call the shots better?

I don't think so.

**JIM TIMBERS
MILTON**

Absence of bike lanes disappointing

DEAR EDITOR:

I don't know if this question should go out to Town staff, Region staff, Town council or Regional council, but the question is where are the bike lanes on the expanded Derry Road and James Snow Parkway?

What a costly, unbelievable miss.

I mean aren't we as a community supposed to

be encouraging non-polluting modes of transportation? Why are there bike lanes in so many other communities — just drive down Appleby Line in Burlington and see — and not in Milton?

I'm getting pretty tired of this ongoing lack of vision.

**MIKE RANK
MILTON**

Agent narrowly escapes early morning blaze at C.P.R. station

'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.

March 1910

At 2 a.m. on Saturday Miss Crawford of Campbellville was awakened by a glare, looked out and saw the C.P.R. station in a blaze. She called her father, who got up, ran across to the residence part of the station and awoke the station agent, Mr. Turner and his wife, who had barely time to pick up their clothing and get out. They dressed outside. The buildings, consisting of waiting room, freight and baggage room and dwelling were destroyed with all their contents except a few articles of furniture. Major Beattie lost about 2,600 bushels of wheat. Miss Chapman, who had come home from Hamilton Normal School on the previous evening, too late to have her trunk brought home, had left it in the baggage room, where it was burned. It contained clothing, furs and a gold watch. The fire is supposed to have been started in long dry grass near the station by a spark from a passing engine. Major Beattie's wheat was insured but unfortunately Mr. Turner's furniture was not. His loss was about \$500. As it was he and Mrs. Turner have reason to be thankful that they escaped with their lives.

...

The final match of the season for the junior championship of the Halton-Peel Hockey League was played at the rink here on Friday evening between Georgetown and the Boys' Athletic Club (Milton). The ice was heavy, but the hockey was fast and clean. The score was 9-0 in favor of the B.A.C. but the play was closer than the figures would indicate. To show their appreciation of the good sportsmanship and clean play of the Georgetown boys, the B.A.C. gave them a banquet at the B.A.C. room after the match. Forty nine B.A.C. boys and guests sat down and did full justice to the spread. Milton has good reason to be

**Milton
Time
Capsules**



proud of the Boys' Athletic Club. Their record for the hockey championship is eight victories and no defeats. Their organization on the Y.M.C.A. lines, strict training, and the good management of Mr. Parks, have had much to do with this and with their success last season in summer sports, which it is hoped will be repeated during the coming summer. While their physical training is in such good hands, and healthy amusements are provided in their clubroom, their moral training is not neglected. It is in the best of hands, those of Miss Ruddy, who had had years of experience in similar work in New York City, and who teaches their Bible class.

...

After playing without accident in all the Halton-Peel league's junior hockey matches of the season, Harry Wharton of the Boys' Athletic Club was badly hurt in a practice game at the rink on Thursday evening. He and a smaller boy of the opposing side made for the puck, their heads came together and Harry's cheekbone was broken in. To raise it again into its place was a tedious and delicate surgical operation. It was performed successfully, but for some days it was feared that Harry would lose the sight of one of his eyes. Happily that danger is gone and the boy is recovering quickly. He is out today.

April 1910

The county council has given the lawn tennis club permission to continue the use of the court, house square, to prepare a third court there and to erect a rustic building in which to store the tennis outfit and serve refreshments.

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

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