

OPINION

Bitter clash is looming

Neither side budging in infrastructure battle

It appears that Halton Region and the provincial government are headed for a High Noon-style showdown.

At one end of the street is the Region, headed by chair Gary Carr, who — while leading the Fairness for Halton campaign — says the Province is being unfair in asking Halton to accommodate thousands of new residents in the coming years through the Places to Grow plan without offering enough funding for infrastructure.

The Province, through Minister of Energy and Infrastructure George Smitherman, has said the Region's infrastructure deficit — pegged at \$300 million — is the fault of the Region and precedes the Province's Growth Plan. He's called Carr's plea for fairness 'grandstanding.'

It's hard to believe this is the same George Smitherman who, four years ago as health minister, helped neighbouring Georgetown win its fight against the William Osler Health Centre to keep its hospital's obstetrics ward open.

That situation isn't unlike the one between the Region and Province today. In both cases, a more powerful body (in this case the Province) is trying to impose its will on the weaker one (the Region) without proper justification.

While the Province has provided some infrastructure funding, it clearly falls short of what the Region requires if it is forced to follow the Province's plan to add 300,000 more people in Halton in the next 25 years. On top of that, the Region is now being told to pony up money to pay for badly-needed new and renovated hospitals in south Halton.

The Region, rightly so, isn't inclined to place that huge financial burden on the backs of local taxpayers.

That's why last week regional politicians indicated they will use a loophole in the Region's Official Plan, which allows them to refuse sewer and water pipe connections to new developments until a more equitable funding arrangement with the Province is worked out.

That move won't please developers, but it's the only hammer the Region has to wield in this battle.

Time will tell who blinks first.



ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Time to support our veterans

DEAR EDITOR:

The annual Remembrance Day poppy campaign starts today and runs until November 11.

This year marks 90 years since the First World War guns finally fell silent, a symbolic anniversary of Armistice Day that we have recognized each year in Canada since November 11, 1918.

Please take a poppy from a veteran or a Legion volunteer, and wear it to show respect to the brave young men and women who fought for the freedom we enjoy here in Canada today.

Ask our veterans about their medals. They will share stories that young peo-

ple should never have to experience.

We're fortunate to have about 100 veterans in the area. Please come out, line our streets and cheer these people on at one of our parades.

Our goal is to have everyone wear a poppy in honour of our veterans from the Second World War and the Korean War, as well our fine young soldiers now in the conflict zones of Afghanistan and elsewhere.

**KATHLEEN BLANE,
POPPY CHAIR
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 136**

Aroundtown

Is your teacher tops? Tell the Champion all about it

Ask the question 'Who was your favourite teacher growing up?' and most people have an almost instant response.

Mine was a high school English teacher, Ms Laughlin-Hillier — Ms L.H., as we all called her. There was something about her. She was exuberant and got us excited about learning. She taught me something about life, not just transitional verbs and the pyramid structure. I told her when I left high school that I'd dedicate my first published article to her.

Who was your most memorable teacher? Was it the one who didn't mind staying after school to help? The one who gave you a second chance after you messed up? Or maybe it was that teacher who seemed to inspire more than teach.

The *Champion* wants to know about these educators for its Teacher of the Month fea-

ture. This is a chance for you, as a student or parent, to drop us a line and tell us what makes your — or your child's — teacher special.

The contest is open to all teachers from pre-school to Grade 12 in the public and Catholic school systems, as well as Milton's private schools.

Each month, we in the editorial department go through the nominations and make an executive decision. The winners have an article written about them and their class receives a pizza lunch on us.

As a reporter, it's always fun to deliver good news. And once a month, usually around week two, I put the phone to my ear and get ready to make the call.

By the time I hang up, having told one

special person they've been chosen Teacher of the Month, I'm usually smiling ear to ear.

I love the surprise in their voices. "I'm nothing special," is often what they say, although not in so many words.

But they are. And it often seems to mean just as much to the nominating parent or student as it does to the teacher.

October's Teacher of the Month story ran in Wednesday's paper. We're now looking for submissions for November.

If you'd like to nominate your teacher, send us an e-mail at editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Simply tell us what sets him or her apart, and make sure to include your contact information.



Stephanie Hounsell

The Canadian Champion
Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

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Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364
Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947
www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

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The Canadian Champion, published every
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