

OPINION

Fitting tribute

As Canadians we're often accused of not being as patriotic as our friends to the south. We don't beat our chests and shout our achievements to the rest of the world.

We have a reputation, likely deservedly so, for being polite to a fault and we're not known for wearing our hearts on our sleeves when it comes to recognizing the sacrifices of our military members.

However, as time has shown, the final farewell for our fallen heroes has become a powerful symbol of Canadian pride in its men and women of the armed forces.

Nowhere was this more evident than in south Halton last week where first responders and veterans gathered with residents

at QEW overpasses to give a final salute or wave to Warrant Officer Dennis Raymond Brown. The warrant officer, a reservist with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment and a special constable for Niagara Regional Police Service, was one of three Canadian soldiers killed in a roadside bombing in Afghanistan earlier this month.

The police-escorted funeral procession made its way west along the QEW to Brown's final resting place in St. Catharines.

It's our hope that this emotional display of support offers some comfort to the families of the fallen and demonstrates to the families of those with moms, dads, daughters and sons at war that Canadians care.



Readers Write

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

Local man keeping job after big lottery win seems rather selfish

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Miltonian Kevin Perron's \$12.5 million lottery win.

Dude, how can you blow this golden opportunity to escape the stresses of the workplace and the fear of layoffs to stay put in your sales job?

You couldn't earn \$12.5 million in a hundred years of service at that Mississauga food

packaging company, or most other companies for that matter.

There are many people out there, like myself, who would love the chance to have your job. Personally, I've been out of work for almost a year and I have over seven years of sales experience.

Your staying in your job robs someone like me of the chance to earn a paycheque again and keep afloat with mortgage payments and bills.

You now have nothing to worry about financially, so why not give someone less fortunate than you the chance to forge a living.

Imagine the freedom you deprive yourself and the relief of working you're depriving someone else by holding onto that job you no longer need.

**ROB THOMPSON
MILTON**

Councillor's comments on taxes tough to swallow

DEAR EDITOR:

I read the letter in the *Champion* from Town Councillor Colin Best regarding tax and salary increases.

It isn't difficult to use statistics from different areas of government to validate increases in salaries, expenses and taxes. Canadians are, in general, overtaxed. It seems like the more taxes we pay, the less services we receive, and yet governments still complain that they need more money to run things. It's a vicious cycle of incompetence.

In my opinion, it serves no purpose to compare Milton and Halton Region with other municipali-

ties and regions, which may or may not be governed efficiently. Each town and region is different from the other, with different problems and needs.

People elected to office are expected to perform as leaders, not as blind followers.

As far as taxes go, how can assessments of homes increase while the market values decrease, and still taxes go up?

If the Citizens Advisory Committee decides on council remuneration, then how do I get on this council?

**AGOSTINO GALIOTO
MILTON**

Where are sports for 7-year-olds?

DEAR EDITOR:

We recently received our Community Services Guide, and once again are absolutely shocked at the lack of recreational programs available.

My son is seven years old, and aside from swimming the only athletic program available to him is yoga. Really? Yoga? The athletic classes end at age six, and nothing is offered again until age nine.

It seems the Town of Milton is relying exclusively on volunteer and privately-run sporting clubs to provide recreational activities to the children in our community.

These programs are often quite expensive. For example, the City of Mississauga offers basketball for \$73 compared to \$135 for a similar program offered by a private club in Milton.

Milton is a wonderful place to grow up, but it's time the Town offered our kids affordable and accessible athletics.

**JANNE CAMPBELL
MILTON**

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