

# Town councillor to take the plunge this fall

## Greg Nelson to try to break bungee jumping record for charity

By Stephanie Hounsell  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF



Ward 2 Councillor Greg Nelson trains in preparation for his plans to bungee jump in Switzerland to raise money for three local charities.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's... a Milton politician throwing himself off a 220-metre dam?

Yep, on September 26, Ward 2 Councillor Greg Nelson will take the plunge, bungee jumping off Switzerland's Verzasca Dam — one of the highest in the world — to raise money for three local charities.

His goal? To break the record for most jumps in one day at the dam; and until then, to ensure word of his endeavour spreads like wildfire to encourage financial support as well as awareness for The Deck Milton youth centre, Halton Women's Place shelter and the Halton Learning Foundation.

It's called the Gravity Gives Project, and this is certainly a side of Nelson with which few Miltonians are familiar.

His is no small feat, to be sure. Nelson will reach a speed of 140 km/h in seconds and his body will endure four Gs, with a freefall that'll last seven-and-a-half seconds. The initial recoil alone will be nearly 40 storeys high.

"I have four to five hours to make 12 jumps to make a record," Nelson said.

He's backed by a savvy marketing plan and a team of 12 experts that includes everyone from a naturopathic doctor to a personal trainer to two world-record-holding bungee jump experts.

Nelson said skeptics told him this wouldn't spread past Halton, but he's excitedly proving them wrong; his feat has been garnering worldwide attention, particularly within the "extreme" community.

A Facebook site devoted to his project already more than 400 members from as far away as New Zealand — and he's just getting warmed up, he said.

"The notoriety of this has caught the attention of more than a few people," Nelson said.

Now, he's hoping Milton residents will jump on board and join in to lend their support.

"This is big and this is in your backyard," is his message for Miltonians.

A mid-life crisis? Maybe.

The 44-year-old councillor — who by day manages an automotive services business — admitted jumping off a dam several times in succession is cheaper than a red convertible.

"And hair dye is too obvious," he said.

He added this is on his "bucket list" of things he wants to experience in his lifetime.

The idea came to him this past fall. But, he said, there was no point if nobody benefited besides himself. He then realized he could combine this crazy idea with a fundraising campaign that could help a lot of people.

So far, it's working.

"It's brought awareness of these charities to a different level," he said.

Nelson ventured into the world of bungee jumping and other extreme sports such as skydiving and para-gliding in the mid-1990s.

He hasn't completed a jump in 12 years, but Nelson said he's not nervous about the physical aspect — yet. The fundraising element is a different matter, he said, since so many people are counting on him.

Nelson is currently busy training, preparing himself physically and mentally for what's to come. That means a strict diet and nutrition program as well as core strength training and aerobics, he said. He'll also be doing several practice jumps throughout the summer.

He's covering his own travel expenses and all his support team members have donated their time and expertise.

For local arts events go to

www.arts.milton.com

*Discover* **Country Heritage Park**

**COUNTRY HERITAGE OLDE TYME FAIR**  
MAY 30TH 12PM-5PM

**SATURDAY PROGRAM Open to the general public.**

- Family fun day
- Commodity group demonstrations
- Cattle, horses, chickens, eggs, bees, vegetables and more
- Exhibit buildings open
- Miniature Horses
- Blacksmith Shop
- 1630 Homestead
- Tractor drawn wagon rides
- Scavenger hunt and prizes
- Olde tyme toys, pedal harness horses (children and adult), animal train, bean bag toss, pedal tricycles, and games.

Check out our website for all program updates... [www.countryheritagepark.com](http://www.countryheritagepark.com)

**8560 Tremaine Road, Milton 905-878-8151 or 1-888-307-3276**

Daily admission: Adults \$5, Children \$4, Family Package: \$20 (some events differ) Programs subject to change.

Country Heritage Park is open all year for school daytrips, youth programs, corporate events, weddings, group tours & facility rentals. Call for details or email [info@countryheritagepark.com](mailto:info@countryheritagepark.com).

**Foreign-trained but can't find a job in your field?**

If you're a foreign-trained professional or business person looking for a job, improve your English and Canadian job search skills with...

**Enhanced Language Training for Internationally Educated Professionals and Business People**

8-week programs are FREE to qualified applicants and take place in Burlington. **Next course starts June 8<sup>th</sup>**

For more information, call **905-333-3499, ext. 264** or visit [www.thecentre.on.ca](http://www.thecentre.on.ca)

The Centre is a participating agency of Skills International

**The Centre**  
Skills Development & Training

This program is funded by  
Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

[SkillsInternational.ca](http://SkillsInternational.ca)  
Connecting with global skills

The three benefiting charities are ones with which Nelson has personally become involved:

The Halton Learning Foundation allocates funds to students to enrich their learning opportunities and eliminate barriers. The Deck Milton youth centre works with more than 600 teens each year, providing mentoring, guidance and referrals for youths in crisis.

And Halton Women's Place provides desperately-needed shelter and crisis services for abused women and their children.

For more information, to join the Facebook group or to make a donation, visit [www.gravitygivesproject.ca](http://www.gravitygivesproject.ca).

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

### FUTURE SHOP CORRECTION NOTICE

ConnectPro Car Audio Installation Fine Print. Please note that there is an error on the fine print for car audio installation on pages 9 and 10 of the May 15 flyer. Basic installation for these products is for basic labour ONLY. Parts and custom work is extra. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

## Calling all Graduates

### Our special Graduation Section

will run  
Wednesday, June 24, 2009

**\$59. + GST**  
(picture incl.)

Deadline is  
Wednesday June 17 at noon.  
"No more than 40 words please"

**The Canadian Champion**

Phone: 905-878-2341

Fax: 905-876-2364

Email:

[classified@](mailto:classified@)

[miltoncanadianchampion.com](http://miltoncanadianchampion.com)

