

OPINION

We thank you

April marks National Volunteer Month to draw attention to the 12.5 million people across Canada who lend their time and energy to making their communities better.

Donating their time and their skills without expectation of monetary reward, volunteers are on the front lines of all our community services — community health care, sports and recreation, heritage and arts, environmental protection and advocacy, disaster relief and international development, to name only a few.

On April 9, the day before the associated National Volunteer Week began, one such grand volunteer — Samantha Attew — was recognized as Citizen of the Year by the Milton Chamber of Commerce.

The youngest recipient of the award, Attew is the epitome of volunteerism.

She makes a difference. She gives of herself and puts others first.

Everyone has a different reason for volunteering. For Attew it's simply because she loves Milton so much.

An amazing lady to be sure.

To Attew and the thousands of others in our community who give of their own time to make Milton the great place it is, we thank you and want you to know that your efforts are both recognized and appreciated.



ReadersWrite

Email letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com. Letters, which may be edited, must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

Federal election waste of taxpayers' money

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is in response to Wendy Schau's letter in the April 7 *Champion*.

No. The federal election isn't needed.

According to this former town councillor, Canadian democracy was in peril because the government wouldn't release some information in regard to costs to be incurred due to two Conservative programs.

If the three opposing parties

felt democracy was so threatened, why isn't there a clear program in their election platforms as to how this kind of supposed abuse should be eliminated? There's nothing being presented by the opposition parties in this regard.

The editorial in the *Champion* was quite correct. This is an election based on opportunism.

Politicians seem to forget, as does our former councillor, that the Conservatives have been

elected to represent the will of the majority in their respective ridings.

Did any of the federal opposing parties reach out to their constituents and ask if an election was needed? Apparently not. They even ignored national polls, which indicated that Canadians don't feel there's a need for an election at this time.

There's no need to spend approximately \$300 million for an election. Three hundred mil-

lion dollars could be used to bring down the deficit or for health care and senior care, etc. Why didn't the three opposing parties think about how the \$300 million could have been better spent on worthwhile programs?

Do the three opposition parties have any respect for the precious tax dollar and the need for the money to be spent wisely? I say no.

Our former councillor was quite right when she stated that: "People have fought and died and are still fighting and dying for the right to have a democratic system of government like ours."

When the opposition parties forced an unneeded and unwanted election, they showed how undemocratic the existing system is in Ottawa.

The wishes of the majority of Canadians were ignored by the three opposing parties. That's not democracy.

What's needed to avoid this kind of fiasco is fixed election dates at the federal level.

the humane treatment and transport of farm animals?

How are they going to protect Canada's wildlife?

That's why I used the website www.voteforanimals.ca to send a letter to all candidates in my riding asking their views. I hope others will join me.

I'm a Canadian voter and animals matter to me.

HELEN GOURLEY
MILTON

JOAN MACKENZIE
CAMPBELLVILLE

Animal welfare important election issue

DEAR EDITOR:

Animal welfare is important to Canadians and this election. We need to address it.

I'm one of the 95 per cent of Canadians who, according to a recent Harris/Decima poll, believe animal pain and suffering should be reduced as much as possible.

I find it strange and surprising that Canada still uses animal cruelty legislation first enacted in 1892 when our views on animal

cruelty, as with other issues like the environment and women's rights, have changed so dramatically since that time.

While other countries have updated their animal protection laws, Canada has clung to Victorian-era laws.

I want to hear candidates' views on how they plan to improve the welfare of animals.

Will they commit to updating our anti-cruelty laws?

What are they doing to ensure

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