

OPINION

Do parking woes top residents' complaint list?

Town's current parking bylaw too restrictive

What's the biggest complaint in Milton? We have no way to know for sure but we wouldn't doubt it's the Town's narrow parking bylaw. So we applaud Ward 5 Councillor Arnold Huffman's recent bid for the Town to revisit the three-hour parking limit on Milton's roads.

During last week's community services committee meeting, Huffman requested that Town staff investigate what would be involved in upping the town-wide street parking limit to five hours.

While we realize a bylaw to control parking is required, we find that the three-hour limit is too restrictive and it doesn't serve the needs of Miltonians.

Currently, 18 times a year residents can obtain a parking consideration to park longer than three hours for out-of-town guests, during special occasions or during construction.

But we don't think Miltonians should have to get permission from the Town for street parking every time they host an event that might last longer than a mere few hours.

We understand the argument that allowing unlimited street parking would turn residential roads into parking lots. And it can be annoying when a neighbour frequently leaves their vehicle in front of your house. Some argue it would be difficult for emergency vehicles to maneuver around all the parked cars.

How about a compromise like Huffman has suggested? He went on to advise that to avoid people parking overnight the Town could enforce a no-parking bylaw between 2 and 7 a.m.

We hope Town staff come back with a report recommending changes to the current parking bylaw, amendments that will allow more leniency when it comes to street parking, and that the rest of council will support it.



ReadersWrite

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

Wake-up call needed on trash

DEAR EDITOR:

I enjoyed your recent Trash Troubles stories. Ontario has a lot to learn about handling trash and articles like your special report are needed as a wake-up call.

Cities like Montreal, which take their trash seriously (watch Trashopolis to see how serious) should be used as examples.

Garbage is big business. From recycled items being sold to manufacturers to incinerated garbage creating electricity to selling our garbage to communities that make money with garbage, there are so many opportunities to have our garbage turned into treasure.

STEPHENIE YATES
MILTON

DeadlineDiaries

Home is where the heart is, hopefully in Halton

A home represents many things. For myself, it's the place where I breathe a sigh of relief after a long day, where I've celebrated numerous birthdays and Christmases and shared countless family dinners.

Now imagine all those memories, but take away the home.

That's what Halton's high schoolers were asked to do this fall in the fifth annual Be a Hero for Affordable Housing contest.

The results came in the form of blue prints, building designs, song lyrics, visual art and videos. They provided a fresh take on what it means to be without a roof over your head, each inspiring in its own way.

Last week I had the pleasure of judging the

contest, which is organized by Halton Region.

The need for affordable housing is something I've spent many hours writing about while covering Halton politics. Making a case for more rental units and a mix of housing in the region is a tough task.

We live in a highly-educated community where the median family income is well above the provincial average (\$92,416 versus \$69,156).

But at the same time, the price of rent is nine per cent higher in Halton than the rest of Ontario and between 1996 and 2006 the number of rental units

decreased by 12 per cent.

The cost of home-ownership is also 21 per cent more in Halton compared to the rest of the province.

Myself and the five other judges — the director of Milton Transitional Housing Corporation, a social worker who helps find homeless youth a safe place to sleep, a high school student, a mom who lives in a Burlington co-operative housing complex and a employee of the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation — spent part of the evening dis-



Christina Commisso

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