

OPINION

Say hello to 2010

Well, now that we've kicked 2009 to the curb-side, how about we take a look at what 2010 could bring us?

For starters, Milton residents will likely see some new structures, if not completed, at least under construction this year.

Of course, the poor taxpayer will be hit hard again thanks to Premier Dalton McGuinty's harmonized sales tax (HST), which suggests anything but harmony.

The HST merges the current eight per cent provincial sales tax (PST) with the five per cent goods and services tax (GST), translating into an extra eight per cent tax on everything from hair cuts

to hydro. Luckily, that cup of coffee and newspaper that you so enjoy escaped the dreaded tax.

The HST is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2010. Unless the Liberals have another resolution for grabbing more tax money, we bet Ontarians will have to spend just a little bit more starting Canada Day.

After an election-free year, residents will go to the polls October 25 to elect their municipal leaders. Could a federal election also be in the cards for 2010? After a close call in 2009, will the poll-leading and suddenly emboldened Tories force the opposition parties' hands?

Stay tuned... it could be an interesting year.



ReadersWrite

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

Support during crisis nothing short of amazing

DEAR EDITOR:

A few months ago, Milton was visited by an F1 tornado.

This was the second tornado experience of my life. The first was in the summer of 1978 while I was driving just east of Winnipeg. I literally drove through a wall of water following a car that vanished in front of me by the time I cleared the edge of the funnel. I wonder what ever happened to the people in the car.

For Milton, this was also a second tornado. The last, I was told by some of my long-term Milton patients, was in 1954. It happened only two blocks south of my practice and property at Wakefield Professional Centre, where the storm removed a portion of the roof structure,

allowing water to damage the interior.

Fortunately no one was hurt by this latest natural event. I can only imagine how that may not have been the case under different circumstances. I was the last to leave the building that day when that wouldn't have normally been the case, as normal office hours extended beyond the 6:30 p.m. time that the storm hit.

It's odd to experience the chaos of the damage and the turmoil of keeping one's sanity amidst never-ending decisions for myself and others affected by the damage to the property. However, there were many blessings or positives to the then negative event.

Within the building there was a social bonding, which in my 30 years of practice I

hadn't taken the opportunity to be involved in.

My caring went from seeing patients to seeing contractors, and other office staff in the building, meeting or discussing the announcement with the *Champion* office staff, evaluating insurance issues and areas that likely needed a review of my personal needs as well as the needs of others.

I felt I worked harder than I did in routine daily practice. I personally have to thank the experience as a reminder that we're not immune from imminent disaster. Property can be replaced and businesses can rebuild. However, the concepts of community, family and friends take on a higher value in the wake of an act of 'nature.'

I'd like to personally thank all the people in the practices involved, as well as the contractors, workers and patients of our community, who have helped out during this inconvenience. Also, thank you to the *Champion* in helping our advertising by putting a little colour to our voice over the past few weeks.

And thanks to all the people who were employed and kept busy in tough times, putting their hearts into helping me and others struggle through reconstruction of the professional building we spend half of our day in. There are simply too many people to list.

It's often said there is a silver lining to every cloud. Thank you, Milton, for being my home.
DR. RONALD STROHAN, OPTOMETRIST
WAKEFIELD PROFESSIONAL CENTRE

Letter by HST supporter rather hypocritical

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the December 2 *Champion* letter to the editor by Halton Provincial Liberal Association President Paul Virdo entitled 'Editorial doesn't give all the facts on tax reform.'

Mr. Virdo accuses the *Champion* of presenting a one-sided view when it comes to the harmonized sales tax (HST) and then goes on to do exactly what he accuses the *Champion* of. That is, presenting a biased version when it comes to the HST.

Mr. Virdo goes on about all the tax cuts and incentives we will get under the new system, which is all well and good and accurate.

But, and that's a big but, never once does he mention the net effect of the HST.

Sure your income tax will go down and sure you'll get a cheque for some money to start you on your way. However, Mr. Virdo never once tells us when it's all said and done if our net tax obligation will be more or less.

Will that additional 8 per cent on all those items we don't currently pay taxes on make up the money lost on personal and corporate income tax? We both know the answer to that, Mr. Virdo, and you should address this if you're going to make claims of media bias.

ROB BLAZIK
MILTON

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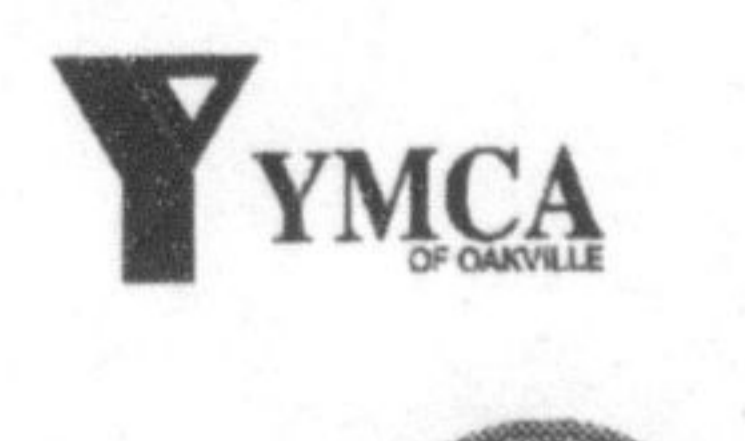
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