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Wednesday edition A Metroland Community Newspaper serving the town of Milton

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Maplehurst expansion plan shocks council

By ROB KELLY

Milton councillors lashed out at the provincial government Monday night, saying it has foisted the expansion of a local prison on the community with no consultation. Councillors worried that a new and more dangerous breed of inmate will move into Maplehurst Correctional Centre, whether the town wants that or not.

Referring to the fact Milton has been chosen for Halton Region's landfill, councillor Bill Johnston said, "we're going to get municipal garbage and human garbage."

"I'm not too pleased with the way its been handled at all. At all," stressed Mayor Gord Krantz at the full council meeting.

Monday afternoon the Ministry of Correctional Services issued a press release stating a new 272-bed detention facility will be constructed on the Maplehurst grounds for adult offenders awaiting trial, sentencing or other judicial processing. The new wing will serve Peel and north Halton regions and Dufferin County.

Security considerations aside, Mr. Krantz said Queen's Park "should have at least had the decency" to let Milton officials know in advance that the plan had been set in motion.

"Even our own MPP's (Walt Elliot, Halton North, Barbara Sullivan, Halton Centre) never bounced it off me."

Tuesday Mr. Elliot admitted the timing of the announcement caught him by surprise. "I did not know about the announcement yesterday." He expected it would "come a little later," with a comprehensive review.

Asked if he felt politically compromised by the surprise and the resultant municipal backlash, Mr. Elliot replied, "not at all. This is the way the system works." His input came far in advance of the Monday release, he noted. Following that, he could only wait "and have a little faith."

But the MPP seemed somewhat apologetic concerning the manner in which Milton officials found out about the move. "I had nothing to do with that."

"I'm not really in favour of (the) expansion," said Ward 2 councillor Art Melanson. "I think it will bring more problems than prosperity."

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Women claims Bell charges for busy signals

For whom does the bell toll? It tolls for Anderson Street resident Shauna Greenwood, and she's not too pleased.

Bell Telephone, she claims, is inadvertently charging her and other customers for calls that end up as busy signals. She pointed to one instance on her November bill when calls to a Toronto service company were registered for 9:35, 9:37 and 9:38 a.m. She's certain the first two calls were busy signals Bell Canada charged her for.

After complaining to the phone company, the charges were deleted. But she is still concerned that "18 million phones throughout Canada" may be piling up bills for busy signals.

"It's possible," said Sue Stasovic, a Bell customer service representative handling Milton, "but very rare. You could count on one hand the times we've taken charges off of local people claiming they've been charged for dialing a busy signal."

She stressed that a credit given by Bell Canada is not necessarily an admission of computer error, but more a public relations tactic giving the customer the benefit of the doubt.

Bell spokesperson Geoff Matthews said "it happens so infrequently as to not to be a real problem." While no system is perfect, he said Bell's is an "close to 100 per cent as you can get."

"People, he noted, can sometimes forget phoning back a business, perhaps to order a catalogue. People don't have 100 per cent recall," he said. "The machine does."



Walt Elliot MPP



Photo by JON BLACKER

Santa's on track

Still finding time to listen to the Christmas gift wishes of children like Ryan Love, 5, Santa Claus acted as the driver of an antique street car on Sunday afternoon. He was the guest of honour at the annual Christmas Fleets organized by the ladies' auxiliary of Halton Radial Railway Museum.

Christmas bureau fund is growing

The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund continued to grow this past week, with the biggest boost coming from Rockwell International. The local company donated \$1,000, bringing the fund total to \$2,325.

After this Thursday, the staff at town hall will be making a donation of the proceeds from a used book sale they're conducting this week. Staff members contributed books which are on sale in the town hall lobby.

Efforts such as this will result in a merry Christmas for all Miltonians despite financial limitations. The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund goal is \$18,000.

Tax receipts will be provided for donations of more than \$5. Donations will be accepted at The Champion office, 191 Main St. or through the mail at Box 248, Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9. Make cheques payable to The Champion Christmas Bureau Fund.



This little snowman represents \$2,325 in donations to our fund.