



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton L9T 4N9
878-2341
Toronto Line 821-3837
Fax - 878-4943
Classified Advertising: 875-3300

Ian Oliver *Publisher*
Neil Oliver *Advertising Director/
General Manager*
Jane Muller *Editor*
Karen Huisman *Circulation Manager*
Teri Casas *Office Manager*
Tim Coles *Production Manager*

The Canadian Champion, published every Wednesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Aurora Banner, Barrie Advance, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Collingwood Connection, Etobicoke Guardian/Lakeshore Advertiser, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Mississauga News, Newmarket Era, Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Pickering/Borough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Today's Seniors, and Uxbridge/Stouffville Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

Next, cut duplication

When it came down to the short strokes with regards to hammering out a social contract deal, most groups that had strongly resisted the provincial push for such legislation got on side, to their credit.

We are pleased to see that both Halton Region and the regional police, technically an arm of regional government but in reality largely an entity unto itself, signed.

As we have previously warned, now is not the time for any government or quasi-government agency to heave a sigh of relief, however. Most senior civil servants and administrators believe more provincially mandated cuts are coming, and so do we.

We are as distressed as anyone else at job losses, be they in public service or elsewhere, although we know the private sector has borne the brunt of this recession to date.

But we feel job losses could be minimized if the public sector cuts emphasize weeding out duplication in services, rather than cutting government services per se.

Government at all levels is rife with extraneous studies, duplicated documents, experts from one level checking the work of experts from another level and commenting on it. This is where the focus of future cuts should fall.

We would gladly sacrifice several studies - few will read and virtually no one will act upon, rather than, for example, pre-commuter hour snow removal on municipal and regional roads.

Another benefit of streamlining provincial, regional and municipal agencies that are involved in the same projects would be less feuding.

We have seen regional engineers, by way of illustration, damning the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources for its policies, the contention being that the ministry hinders their work and adds to its cost. Some sort of friction is to be expected, but these agencies often seem to be toiling at cross purposes.

Ontario is perhaps the most over-governed jurisdiction in the western hemisphere, a phenomenon that evolved over time and with little control as fiefdoms expanded to fill perceived bureaucratic voids, in an era when the province was flush with cash.

The province is no longer flush, and given its debt load won't be for quite some time to come.

We find ourselves offering a tepid endorsement to the provincial government for its spending restrictions, although they are somewhat akin to band-aids on wounds requiring surgery.

But a start has been made, and an apparently politically costly one for the ruling NDP, which requires an acknowledgement of courage on the provincial government's part.

When the province forms social contract two, and expenditure control plan two, as they almost undoubtedly will, we trust they and their governing brethren at the regional and municipal levels will look long and hard at duplication of services, studies, paper shuffling. Things get lost in the maze of government in Ontario, and it often makes for little control or accountability. That has to change.

LOOKING BACK



"It's a trifle too large," said Ronnie Thomson as he tried on a firefighter's boot during a visit to Milton fire hall. Ronnie and helpers Bob Dupras, Cheri Fretz and Joan Brown viewed firefighter's equipment with Fire Chief A.E. Clement. The children from Milton Heights Public School grades 1, 2, and 3 also planned fire escape routes.

PAGES OF THE PAST

One Year Ago

From the August 5, 1992 issue

□ Two local teams were to compete in the popular three-on-three series of street hockey tournament play-downs at the Canadian National Exhibition's Coliseum. In the 12-13 year old age group the team was made up of Adam Bertoli, Matt Peers, Jeff Seeds and Darren 'Mini' Haydar. They had qualified in a tournament held in Barrie earlier in the summer. In the 14-15 year old category Jeff Haydar, Scott Bertoli, Iain Macintosh and Travis Riggan were to represent Milton. They qualified by winning the Pickering regional event.

□ Ed and Natalie Krushelnicky said fighting the red tape for more than a year was worth it when they became the parents of two one year old boys from the Ukraine. They were the second Canadian couple ever to adopt from a Ukrainian orphanage.

□ Winning the Peggy McCandless Memorial Award had a special meaning for Debbie Dymant, because the award was in memory of a woman she saw as a role model. Ms McCandless died in a tragic car accident three years earlier. The North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped (NHADH) initiated the award in the form of a plaque to be presented to a worker who showed leadership, understanding of the needs of others, and an ability to grow and change. Ms Dymant worked for the NHADH for the past nine years, starting out as a volunteer.

20 Years Ago

From the August 8, 1973 issue

□ Missing for 2 days, the bell from the 116-year-old

Bruce Street School was recovered by police. The 400-pound bell had been stolen by vandals and was the object of a police search in area fields. The bell and the bell housing were to be kept, as the rest of the building was demolished and a new library was built on the site. The vandals had apparently climbed to the tower, managed to release the bell from the housing, and rolled it down off the roof to the ground.

□ Town council has been told that Milton could have the CNR station for \$1 if the municipality would move it from its present Bronte Street location. The Milton Chamber of Commerce had earlier asked the town to inquire about whether the station was available. The Chamber was considering moving the building to the north entrance of the town, where it could be used as an information centre and chamber office.

□ Milton's first participant in the Rotary Club's international student exchange program, Gordon Thompson, has left for Belgium. After a crash course in French and Flemish, Gordon, 16, was to stay with a family outside Brussels for a year. Students in the top third of their class could apply for the exchange and were then interviewed by the Milton Rotary Club.

50 Years Ago

From the August 5, 1943 issue

□ A number of Miltonians accompanied the members of the Fire Brigade to their annual celebration in Acton.

□ The Dominion government, in conjunction with the Halton Agricultural Society, has arranged to display a number of labour-saving devices at the Halton County Fair.

□ The Milton Fire Brigade was to hold a bingo in the Town Hall. Fifteen games were to cost 25 cents.

PUD

BY STEVE NEASE

