



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, Oshawa Beaver, Oshawa Today, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Peterborough 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.

LOOKING BACK



The Shorthorn herd of Mrs. W.H. Merry, RR5 Milton, produced many winners in the beef cattle class at the Milton fair in October, 1963. Bob Merry (right) and helpers displayed their entry for competition.

A good man's bad parting

We are reasonably well acquainted with Burlington regional councillor, more properly now former councillor, Doug Greenaway. We know Mr. Greenaway to be astute, apparently hardworking, and not lacking in political courage.

These admirable qualities aside, we find ourselves unfortunately having to question the fact that Mr. Greenaway chose to resign his Halton regional council seat mid-way through the term to foster his business commitments.

While obviously there is a mechanism in place to allow such a thing, a companion process to select a newcomer to succeed Mr. Greenaway is more cumbersome. Two men are in the running, Mr. Greenaway's Ward 1 local counterpart, and the man who came second to Mr. Greenaway in a field of five candidates for the regional seat.

So not only has Mr. Greenaway caused their to be an unanticipated void on regional council, there could also be some bruised egos in the aftermath of his departure.

Was this move on Mr. Greenaway's part really necessary? Perhaps, if he is consistently fatigued from his current schedule. Was it not possible to anticipate at the outset that his business commitments would grow? Perhaps not. Or possibly, some errors in judgement were made.

But the larger issue has to do with responsibility. One is assumed upon winning elected office to be capable of finishing out the term, save some sort of monumental personal reversal.

It is often helpful in such cases to look to the issue of precedence. What sort of precedent does this create? What would happen if a good many people decided to do it? Suppose other politicians felt the need to rejoin the private sector so as to devote their energies to advancing their businesses? What does it make of regional council and the mantle of elected office?

There are other people on Halton regional council who don't seem to put in the effort Mr. Greenaway did. There are few who were or are as outspoken as him. There were fewer yet prepared to risk alienating colleagues on council with at times withering and blunt criticism, as he did.

Mr. Greenaway was not a consummate politician. He was often contrary in an apparent effort to be a contrarian. He was at times moody and truculent. But he was honest, as far as we can determine, he was courageous, he was a man who could cut to the heart of an issue.

Those qualities will be lost to regional council now. Granted, there are others there who share some mix of his attributes — and some others yet who share precious little of his penchant for straight talk.

Mr. Greenaway's departure is a loss to council on two fronts. It is a loss because he has many strong qualities others would do well to emulate. It is also, sadly, a loss because he chose to quit the field in mid-battle, when he was thought to be one who would stay until the end.

The option to leave, we must stress, was undoubtedly there. What he did was sanctioned, permissible. And no doubt he agonized over the decision. But it was common, as they say in some areas. To leave before you have accomplished the assigned task is common. On so many other fronts we see and respect Mr. Greenaway as a man with uncommon attributes. Would that this is but a deviation for him.

Perhaps he is at peace with this, We are not. Yet our respect remains, as do our thanks for the efforts he expended while he was on regional council.

PAGES OF THE PAST

One Year Ago

From the September 2, 1992 issue

□ Milton received \$100,000 in provincial funding for landscape improvements and amenities to downtown's Mill Pond. That sum would be matched by the Town. A condition of the provincial grant was that the money be spent by the end of 1992, so the work was being fast-tracked. The grant was part of a planned three-year, \$600,000 revitalization of the Mill Pond area, with the province expected to pay half and Milton the remainder. Suggestions on how to spend the money included new seating, lighting, walkways and landscaping.

□ After eight months in which the position was vacant, Milton chose a new chief administrative officer. He was David Hipgrave, an engineer and accountant who was serving as chief of staff to Metro Toronto chairman Alan Tonks. Mayor Gord Krantz said that one of the major challenges facing the new administrator was tackling the question of growth in Milton. Mr. Hipgrave replaced Roy Main who left in a cloud of controversy at the end of 1991.

□ Ward 2 councillor Art Melanson wanted the water turned back on at the fountain fronting Highway 401, calling attention to Milton's industrial park. The land, lagoon and fountain were prepared by developers as an eye-catching advertisement for the Town to millions of passersby on the 401. Apparently, the developers suffering through the recession had turned off the water to save money.

20 Years Ago

From the September 5, 1973 issue

□ Brian Best, who served as mayor of Milton for the past six years, announced his candidacy for the office of

mayor in the new Central Halton borough of regional government. To date, he was the only candidate. Many observers, however felt the election may develop into a two-way race between Mr. Best and Nassagaweya Reeve Anne MacArthur. The new boundaries for the Town included all of Milton, most of Nassagaweya Township and parts of Esquesing, Burlington and Oakville.

□ Although a 10-day heat wave had an effect on the attendance figures and gate receipts, the 13th annual Steam Era reunion in Milton on Labour Day weekend was packed with fun and nostalgia. The stars of the show were the 23 steam engines that were on exhibition. They ran sawmills and threshing machines, played on the teeter totter and raced one another. Daily contests in log sawing, wood chopping, bag tying and sheaf tying were also held.

□ At a meeting of the Halton County Board of Education, the board approved the purchase of two-and-a-half acres of land that would eventually serve as part of a new school in Milton. The land was south of Milton District High School. Plans were calling for the extension of Commercial Street to Derry Road, past the site, providing better access to the high school.

50 Years Ago

From the September 2, 1943 issue

□ A dance was being held in the Town Hall with proceeds for war work. Hull's Orchestra would entertain.

□ It was announced that children would not be admitted to the theatre after 8 p.m. without parents or guardians.

□ H. Wheeler resumed teaching piano, violin and theory on King Street in Milton.

PUD

BY STEVE NEASE

