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# The Canadian Champion Weekend

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## Public board balks at vets' poster contest

*Veterans says they feel slighted but board refuses to enter any contests*

By **KAREN SMITH**  
*The Champion*

Local war veterans say they feel slighted after the Halton Board of Education refused their request for students to participate in an annual Remembrance Day poster contest.

For the second year in a row, the public school board has declined the Milton Legion branch's invitation for students to join in on the longtime competition.

"The Legion is quite disappointed," said Bruce MacNab, chairman of the veteran club's youth and education committee.

"The Catholic schools welcome us with open arms."

However, the board hasn't for years endorsed poster contests of any kind in its schools, said Bob Parry, superintendent of education services.

Such contests consume classroom time that could be better spent, use up art supplies and wrongly create competition in art, Mr. Parry said.

"This (policy) is done to reduce the impact on classroom time and resources taken up by such contests and to acknowledge that our students have a wide range of skills and abilities that are not always able to be reflected or appreciated in a contest atmosphere," he wrote in a December 1995 letter to the Legion.

He added that if the board allowed student participation in a Legion contest, it would also be obligated to take part in competitions run by other organizations on important issues such as fire prevention and home safety.

"There are a very large number of organizations that for their purposes wish to have poster or essay contests in the schools," he wrote. "Once general acceptance is given to one organization, it is difficult to say no to another."

Mr. MacNab argued that the Legion's contest, which asks students to illustrate what Remembrance Day means to them, surrounds special circumstances and should be treated accordingly.

The Royal Canadian Air Force veteran said he believes the poster competition is a useful learning tool for students to understand the sacrifices made by Canadians who lost their lives in war.

He said he doesn't understand the board's reasoning because up until 1995 Milton students annually took part in the competition, which has been "running for years."

In an October 1993 letter from the Legion files, the board's superintendent of school services David Katz grants full permission for the veterans to run a poster contest at Milton District High School.

The best entries in the competition are currently displayed for three years at the Legion's Remembrance Hall.

Mr. Parry asked the Legion in his letter not to interpret the board's response as a

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Second World War veteran Bruce MacNab shows a letter from the Halton Board of Education declining the Legion's invitation for students to participate in a Remembrance Day poster contest.

### Harris says:

## Expansion will be a local show

By **BRAD REAUME**  
*The Champion*

Local governments will be the big players in north Halton expansion and the provincial government will not, Premier Mike Harris indicated this week.

As well, the premier would like to see Milton's controversial chlorine debate resolved one way or another within a year.

Mr. Harris spent Tuesday night with the party faithful at a \$600 per plate Tory fundraiser in Campbellville.

The event, hosted by Tim Horton's co-founder Ron Joyce, is in its fourth consecutive year. Premier Harris filled the large Mohawk Raceway meeting room, substantially more support than he garnered at the same event three years ago.

After his speech Premier Harris took the time to address some local concerns. He touched on the chlorination of Milton's water supply and uncertainties surrounding the Halton Urban Structure Plan (HUSP).

Regarding chlorination, which has been imposed in Milton as a

• see HARRIS HERE on page 9



Mike Harris

### NEWSLINES

#### Remembrance Day ceremonies

Milton will remember the fallen soldiers, sailors and airmen of war Sunday and Monday.

Remembrance Day activities organized by the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 136, will get an early start with a parade downtown Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Veterans will march from the Charles Street legion to the cenotaph at Town Hall. Bus transportation will be available.

Remembrance Day services Monday will be held at Evergreen Cemetery on Ontario Street at 11 a.m.

In the evening, the legion will host a banquet with happy hour at 6:30 followed by dinner at 7:30. Tickets, which cost \$7.50, are available at the legion hall.

For more information, call 878-9005.

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