

Opinion

Thanks for everything, Col. Hadfield

He made space accessible, and to some degree more understandable. He did so with an engaging enthusiasm that never seemed to waver — sharing his experiences in a way that was part educational, part entertaining and certainly inspiring. Now, after three space flights and 35 years of service, native Miltonian and beloved astronaut Chris Hadfield has announced his retirement from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA).

The 53-year-old did so Monday afternoon, just after meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Living in Houston, Texas since his days as a fighter pilot in the 1980s, Hadfield said he had promised his wife that they would move back to Canada one day, and that's what he plans to do after finishing out his time with the CSA next month.

It's hard to imagine what else Hadfield could have accomplished during his time with the CSA — a tenure culminating with his recent five-month stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS), where he was the first-ever Canadian to take command.

Embracing social media to bring space to Earth — and amassing one million-plus Twitter followers in the process — he was only too willing to dazzle us with thousands of spectacular photos and dozens of videos from the ISS.

But his most memorable moments were during live links with students in Milton and across Canada. Never talking down to his young admirers but not being overly technical either, Hadfield made space more than a little appealing for the next generation. And how cool was it to hear a Milton native play those iconic lyrics — 'Ground Control To Major Tom' — while actually aboard the ISS.

Hadfield says he now wants to pursue other challenges but truly doesn't know what he'll be doing in the next five years.

One thing we're pretty sure about is that whatever he takes on, the well-travelled astronaut will do his hometown — and Canada as a whole — proud.



SNAPSHOT



Helping hospital

Milton District Hospital Foundation's Helen Vatisas (second from left) accepts a cheque for \$15,764 from Mary Lui (left) and Louis Tsai of the Halton Region Chinese Canadian Association and Theresa Tan (right) of the Milton Chinese Association. Proceeds were raised from the sale of tote bags and two fundraising galas.

Letters

Tom Canadian flags along Main Street were a disgraceful sight

Dear Editor:

While driving along Main Street (between Bronte Street and Hwy. 25) recently, I was shocked to see numerous Canadian flag banners in shreds.

Some had a few pieces of tattered flag left in their frame, others only had the outside section of the flags left.

I also saw pieces of flags in branches of trees. I am not speaking of one or two, I am speaking

of numerous flags. It was a common scene all along Main Street.

Based on the poor condition of the flags, they seem to have been in decline for some time I would guess.

Such disrespect of our country's flag was very upsetting to me and should be upsetting to others. In this town we proudly respect our war veterans by naming streets in their honour, and yet we disrespect their memory by

allowing our flags to be in such a disgusting state. Men and women have shed their blood and given their lives for our Canadian flag. I would like to see all these flags replaced immediately.

I would also like to see someone be held accountable for how this was allowed to happen.

Patricia Jackson
Milton

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555 Industrial Drive, Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1
905-878-2341

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V.P. — Group Publisher
Neil Oliver

Regional General Manager
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