



CHALLINOR REPORT

John Challinor II, Town Councillor, Ward 2, Town of Milton

405 Gowland Crescent | Milton, ON L9T 4B9 | 416-918-4472 | email: john.challinor@milton.ca



Pete McMullen



Glen Turner

Challinor Successfully Encourages Renaming of Baseball Diamonds For Local Sportsmen McMullen, Turner

At the request of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II and the Turner family, and with the support of the vast majority of interested Miltonians, Milton Council approved the renaming of two baseball diamonds located within Milton Community Sports Park for two individuals who championed the development, growth and success of baseball in the community.

Council approved the renaming of two baseball diamonds located within Milton Community Sports Park for two individuals who championed the development, growth and success of baseball in the community.

Mr. Challinor’s motion was seconded by Ward 2 Regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf.

Milton Community Park Baseball Diamond #1 will be renamed Pete McMullen Diamond after the late Hugh “Pete” McMullen (1911 - 1966). Mr. McMullen helped pioneer the development of minor baseball in Milton in the early 1950s and also served as President of the Ontario Baseball Association and the Halton County Baseball Association. Mr. McMullen was inducted into the Town of Milton’s Walk of Fame in 2007 and was added as a builder in the Milton Sports Hall of Fame in 2024.

Milton Community Park Baseball Diamond #2 will be renamed Glenn Turner Diamond in honour of Glenn Turner (1955), a life-long Miltonian who has dedicated his

life to the sport of baseball. He coached Milton’s juvenile and junior-level teams for 15 years. As the general manager of the Milton Red Sox, he won four Ontario Baseball Association championships. Mr. Turner also served as an advisor to the Town during the creation of the premier baseball diamonds at Milton Community Park. He was inducted into the Milton Sports Hall of Fame in 2022.

“The decision to rename the Town’s premier baseball diamonds for Mssrs. McMullen and Turner was as fitting as it was unprecedented,” explained Mr. Challinor. “Mr. McMullen was not only responsible for establishing minor baseball in Milton, he was also responsible for driving the development of minor hockey in Milton. Mr. Turner not only played for and managed the community’s top-level baseball team, he also personally maintained the Town’s premier baseball diamond at Brian Best Park for more than three decades.

“This recognition is unique, but so are the contributions of Mssrs. McMullen and Turner,” he added. “It is unlikely we will see sportsmen like them again in this community. They have set the bar at a height that is simply unattainable in the Milton we know today.”

The new signage will be created and placed at the newly renamed baseball diamonds in the spring of 2025. The unveiling ceremony will take place on Saturday June 14th, beginning at 10 a.m. **CR**

Challinor Elected GRCA Chairman

Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II was recently elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Grand River Conservation Authority, the oldest conservation authority in North America and one of the largest such organizations in Canada.

The GRCA is responsible for managing water and natural resources in the Grand River watershed on behalf of almost one million people and 38 municipalities in the Grand River watershed, including reducing flooding, improving water quality, managing land responsibly and connecting people to nature. Tributaries of the Grand River are found in the north-west corner of Halton. The Grand River was designated a Canadian

continued next page

continued from pg.1

Heritage River in 1994 and is the largest watershed in southern Ontario.

Mr. Challinor has represented all residents of Halton on the 26-member GRCA Board as the Regional Municipality of Halton's representative since 2019. He replaces Gueph-Eramosa Mayor Chris White, who was elected Chair in 2021. Centre Wellington Mayor Shawn Watters was elected Vice Chair, replacing North Dumfries Mayor Sue Foxton, who was elected Vice Chair in 2021.

"For almost 100 years, the GRCA has played and continues to play a critical role in the stewardship of the Grand River watershed and the river that winds its way through 38 great communities in Ontario, enabling those Ontarians and others to live healthy, active lives," said Mr. Challinor. "I look forward to working with GRCA Vice-Chair Shawn Watters and all members of the Board, as well as GRCA CAO Samantha Lawson and her dedicated staff to create and implement programs and services that sustain the watershed for future generations to enjoy and benefit from." **CR**

Challinor, Krantz, Oppose Town of Milton 2025 Operating Budget

[Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II opposed the Town's 2025 Budget, which increased Town expenditures by 9.89 percent, resulting in local property taxpayers paying 6.5 percent more for Town, Region of Halton and education services.](#)

A typical detached home in Milton, which had a market value of \$1,334,400 as of January 1, 2025, according to the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board, but with a 2016 assessed value of \$671,827, will pay \$5,549 in property taxes, a \$339 increase over 2024.

Similarly, a typical townhouse, which had a market value of \$776,300 as of January 1, 2025, according to TRREB, but with a 2016 assessed value of \$439,430, will pay \$3,629 in property taxes, a \$222 increase over 2024.

Finally, a typical condominium, which had a market value of \$603,400 as of January 1, 2025, according to TRREB, but a 2016 assessed value of \$321,256, will pay \$2,653 in property taxes, a \$162 increase over 2024.

While Mr. Challinor was supportive of most of the measures advocated by Town staff in the draft budget brought before Council for approval in early December, he felt that a 4 percent tax increase was more appropriate and, further, it could be achieved by a \$2.5 million reduction in discretionary spending found in the \$40 million purchased goods and services line.

Further, to help to permanently relieve the annual operating budget pressure on property taxpayers, Mr. Challinor recommended the establishment of two reserve funds in 2024: the first to generate \$1 million annually to build the Town's infrastructure reserve, thus completely relieving the municipality's operating budget and property taxpayers of that obligation; and a second reserve to generate \$1 million annually to offset significant operating budget increases, thus, once again, providing some fiscal relief for property taxpayers while backstopping the annual operating budget. The establishment of the second reserve was approved by Council in 2024, but has yet to be implemented. The fiscal relief afforded by both reserves annually would equate to a 2 percent reduction in the impact of the current operating budget on local property taxpayers.

"Canada is clearly in recession, interest rates are still too high, food inflation is continuing unabated and an increasing number of Miltonians are defaulting on their mortgages or not paying their property taxes — or both," he explained. "The coming year is going to be particularly difficult for those 60 percent of Miltonians whose mortgages are coming due for renewal by the end of 2026. The Town of Milton's 2025 Budget needed to reflect that reality and Milton Council needs to respond to the challenges faced by Milton property owners, particularly seniors and young families, by taking strategic, thoughtful and, ultimately, fiscally responsible steps to control spending."

Mr. Challinor further suggested that future years will be uncertain, especially in national and global economic terms as well as in terms of meaningful financial participation by the senior levels of government in helping the municipality to fund programs and services or partially underwrite its infrastructure requirements. **CR**

Challinor Leads Accessibility Advisory Committee Into Third Decade

[Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II believes Milton has become a much more accessible community since the Town of Milton Accessibility Advisory Committee was established in 2002, but more work is required before the municipality is fully accessible to local residents with disabilities.](#)

Mr. Challinor, who has chaired the Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee since 2019, says commercial and industrial complexes and multi-residential buildings constructed since the early 2000s conform with the Province of Ontario's 2005 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and its later amendments, but the municipality was first settled in 1822 and there are about 150 years worth of public and private commercial,

continued next page

continued from page 2

industrial and multi-residential infrastructure that are difficult to navigate for those with disabilities.

“As those buildings are renovated or demolished and rebuilt, they will be upgraded to conform to the Act, but it will take some time for this to occur,” he said. “With the assistance of former committee members like Jerry Steiner and current committee members, some who have disabilities and live with accessibility issues every day in our community, we have streamlined the review process and now provide consistent input on every relevant building application before the Town.”

During the mid-1990s, Mr. Challinor developed a friendship with the late David Onley (1950 - 2023), appearing regularly on his weekly City-TV technology show, Home Page. When Mr. Onley was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario in 2007, as the province’s first representative of Her Majesty the Queen with a disability, he adopted accessibility as the overarching theme of his mandate. In 2019, Mr. Onley led a legislative review of the AODA and was critical of the province’s progress in its implementation.

“I read David’s review, took his criticisms constructively and have worked hard ever since to ensure that Milton is honouring the Act and David’s vision for it,” added Mr. Challinor. **CR**

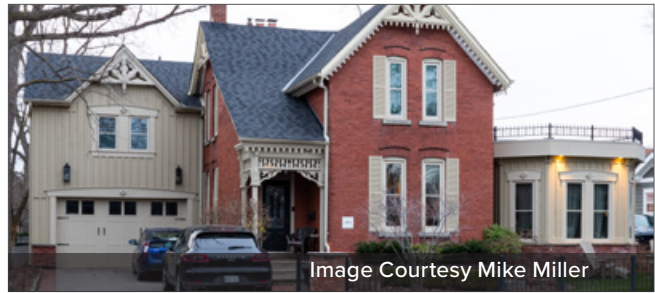


Image Courtesy Mike Miller



Image Courtesy Mike Miller



Image Courtesy Mike Miller



Image Courtesy Town of Milton

Town of Milton to Review Snow Removal Program For Coming Year

Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II and Milton Ward 3 Local Councillor Adil Khalqi have asked the Town of Milton, through a resolution they introduced at Milton Council in March, to undertake a post mortem of its winter control (snow removal) program.

That post mortem would review all aspects of the program and determine through the 2026 operating and capital budgets what, if any, additional financial requirements are needed.

Mssrs. Challinor and Khalqi have also asked Council and Town staff to consider the feasibility of adding a Snow Buddy Program to the larger program. The Snow Buddy Program would mate residents who require their driveways and sidewalks shovelled with local volunteers who wish to provide this service. The program could be coordinated by the Town or an outside agency. **CR**

Challinor Assists With Local Home Ontario Heritage Act Designations

Working with Town of Milton Planning Department staff, Milton Historical Society and Nasigaweya Historical Society, Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II has helped to encourage more than 40 local homeowners to designate their homes under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Working with Town of Milton Planning Department staff, Milton Historical Society and Nasigaweya Historical Society, Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II has helped to encourage more than 40 local homeowners to designate their homes under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Such a designation will prevent these historically important buildings from being demolished.

And, given that there are about 140 key historical properties locally and almost 1,100 historical buildings overall, the response from the owners of these homes is significant. If all of these homes are approved for designation under the Act by the end of 2025, the number of designated properties in Milton will have more than doubled by that time.

At the beginning of 2024, there were about 37 local buildings designated under the Act. **CR**

Challinor proposes new made-in-Milton basis for calculating tax increases

Milton Ward 2 Councillor John Challinor II is proposing a new made-in-Milton basis for determining future tax increases -- the annual rate of inflation plus the annual percentage growth rate in the number of new housing units constructed across the municipality.

The Town of Milton currently uses a range of 4.5 to 7 percent (when blended with the Regional Municipality of Halton and local school board tax increases), which is based on the range of tax increases imposed on taxpayers in those municipalities that are considered to be of similar size to the Town of Milton.

If Mr. Challinor's methodology was used to determine the 2025 tax increase, local taxes would have increased 6.4 percent instead of 9.89 percent. And, when blended with the Regional and school board tax hikes, the impact on local property taxpayers would have been less than 4 percent, rather than 6.5 percent.

In proposing the new made-in-Milton tax calculation, Mr. Challinor and Milton Ward 2 Regional Councillor

Rick Malboeuf, who seconded the motion introduced to Council in March, believe the municipality has to consider three key matters when establishing annual tax rates:

1. The ability of property taxpayers to pay increased taxes, especially seniors and young families;
2. The economic health of Milton which, like the rest of Canada, is currently in recession;
3. The rate of inflation and the level of annual housing construction activity in Milton.

To further reduce the tax rate, Mssrs. Challinor and Malboeuf also introduced a motion requesting that Town staff come back to Council with a plan to implement a previously Council-approved reserve that generates \$1 million annually to offset operating budget increases by 1 percent, thus providing additional fiscal relief for taxpayers while backstopping the annual operating budget. **CR**

Key Government Contacts:

Government of Canada:

Adam van Koeverden

Member of Parliament, Milton
Government of Canada
Telephone: (905) 693-0166
Email: adam.vankoeverden@parl.gc.ca

Government of Ontario:

Zeeshan Hamid

Member of Provincial Parliament, Milton
Government of Ontario
Telephone: (905) 878-1729
Email: zee.hamid@pc.ola.org

Region of Halton:

Gary Carr

Chairman
Regional Municipality of Halton
Telephone: (905) 825-6000
Email: gary.carr@halton.ca

Town of Milton/Region of Halton:

Gord Krantz

Mayor
Town of Milton
Telephone: (905) 878-7252, Ext. 2104
Email: gord.krantz@milton.ca

Town of Milton/Region of Halton:

Rick Malboeuf

Regional Councillor, Ward 2
Town of Milton
Telephone: (905) 875-5019
Email: rick.malboeuf@milton.ca

Town of Milton:

John Challinor II

Town Councillor, Ward 2
Town of Milton
Telephone: (416) 918-4472
Email: john.challinor@milton.ca

Halton District School Board:

Donna Danielli

Trustee, Milton Wards 1 & 2
Halton District School Board
Telephone: (905) 699-7433
Email: daniellid@hdsb.ca

Halton Catholic District School Board:

Emma Murphy

Trustee, Milton
Halton Catholic District School Board
Telephone: (905) 638-9559
Email: murphye@hcdsb.org

Marvin Duarte

Chair of the Board & Milton Trustee
Halton Catholic District School Board
Telephone: (416) 559-9321
Email: duartem@hcdsb.org

Conseil scolaire Viamonde:

Pierre Girouard

Membre, Conseil scolaire Viamonde
(Hamilton-Wentworth, Halton, Brant)
Telephone: (905) 808-3377
Email: girouardp@csviamonde.ca

Conseil scolaire Catholique MonAvenir:

Dominique Janssens

Membre, Conseil scolaire Catholique
MonAvenir (Halton)
Telephone: 1-855-506-5002, poste 1006
Email: djanssens@cscmonavenir.ca

If you wish to receive a digital copy of this newsletter, please visit:
www.johnchallinor.ca/newsletter

This newsletter is funded by John Challinor II and is not funded nor authorized by the Town of Milton.

