



# CHALLINOR REPORT

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

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Photo by David O'Connell

## Challinor, Mayor Oppose Latest Property Tax Increase

Milton Council recently approved a 5.46 percent increase to the Town of Milton's 2022 Budget, which represents a 2.93 percent property tax increase this coming year for local taxpayers.

A home in Milton that is currently assessed at \$600,000, as of the last market value assessment in January 2016, will pay \$4,220 in property taxes, including \$1,632 to the Town, \$1,670 to the Region and \$918 to the school board.

Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II and Mayor Gord Krantz voted against approval of the Town's 2022 Budget, as proposed.

A majority of Council had supported a staff recommendation last fall to limit the 2022 budget increase to 5.26 percent and/or 2.78 percent property tax increase, but later added additional program spending during budget deliberations in early December that exceeded both limits. During the fall discussion, Mr. Challinor, supported by Ward 1 Local & Regional Councillor Colin Best, attempted to have Council request Town staff to return with a 2022 Budget document outlining 2, 3 and 4

percent budget increases only, but was unsuccessful.

During 2022 Budget deliberations in December, Mr. Challinor brought forward a series of motions that would have resulted in a 4.0 percent increase to the Town's 2022 Budget, which were seconded by Councillor Best. All of them were unsuccessful.

In bringing forward his various motions last fall and in December to limit the increases to the Town's 2022 Budget, Mr. Challinor argued that rising inflation, stubbornly high unemployment levels and reduced business productivity because of continuing impacts from the global COVID-19 pandemic demand that government at all levels reduce operating budget spending, focus on the delivery of core services only and review their bylaws to determine whether or not some policies and regulations are helping or hindering the private sector in its efforts to generate sustained economic growth and good-paying jobs. **CR**

## Town's Mature Neighbourhoods Character Study In Third And Final Phase

The final components of the third phase of the Town of Milton's Mature Neighbourhoods Character Study, which focuses on planning measures to protect the Dorset Park and Timberlea neighbourhoods, began in July 2020 and will be brought back to Milton Council for final review and approval in February 2022.

Development Services staff initiated the Mature Neighbourhoods Character Study in April 2018 to review the Town's Official Plan policies and regulatory framework relating to the construction of new dwellings and additions to existing dwellings in Milton's mature residential neighbourhoods and recommend appropriate changes to protect the character of these areas. The study analyzes the physical elements that contribute to the residential character of these stable low-density residential neighbourhoods and assesses whether the policies of the Official Plan and the regulatory framework of the Town's Zoning By-law are effective in managing development and maintaining their character. **CR**

## Eight Miltonians To Be Added To Town Of Milton Walk Of Fame in 2022

Eight more Miltonians of national and/or international stature will be added to the Town of Milton's Walk of Fame during Ontario Heritage Week in 2022, bringing the total number of inductees to 70.

The Walk of Fame induction ceremony is scheduled to take place on **Saturday February 19, 2022 at 2p.m.** in the main foyer of Town Hall. Attendance will be limited because of COVID-19 protocols.

The latest inductees are, as follows:

**Kwaku Boateng**, currently a defensive lineman with the Edmonton Elks of the Canadian Football League (CFL);

**Blair Burgess**, a highly-decorated professional horse trainer who was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2017;

**Robert Burgess**, (posthumous), a very successful horse breeder and owner who was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2011;

**Steve Condren**, one of the most successful standardbred drivers in North America, who was inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2011 and Milton's Sports Hall of Fame in 2020;

**Reford Gardhouse** (posthumous), who was a very successful livestock breeder and exporter as well as international shorthorn cattle judge who was inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1989;

**Jim Ridley** (posthumous), a professional baseball player, scout and coach who was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2014 and Milton's Sports Hall of Fame in 2019;

**Michael Sgarbossa**, a professional hockey player who has played 55 games in the National Hockey League with Colorado Avalanche, Anaheim Ducks, Florida Panthers and Washington Capitals; and

**Neil Teague**, a multi-award winning national and international softball player and coach best known as a member of Softball Canada's Men's National Team who was inducted into Milton's Sports Hall of Fame in 2019.

Inductions only take place when candidate qualifications permit. The last ceremony occurred in February, 2019.

To be nominated and approved for induction into the Town of Milton Walk of Fame, candidate must meet the following nomination criteria:

- Nominee must be born in Milton or spent formative or creative years here;
- Nominee must have lived in Milton for minimum of 10 years;
- Nominee's accomplishments must be national and/or international in scope;
- Nominee's achievement must be best-in-class in his/her best-in-class field of endeavour and extended for minimum two calendar year period; and
- Nominee's achievement must fit into following fields: athletics, arts and entertainment, business and industry, government and public service and health and science. **CR**

## Service Delivery Review Results In \$225,000 In Savings, So Far

The first phase of the core services review recommended by Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II during the 2018 municipal election campaign and implemented by Milton Council in 2019 has resulted in \$225,000 in savings, so far.

Nine of the 18 recommendations in phase one of the service delivery review have been implemented. The remaining high-level initiatives from the review to be considered, in future, include the following:

- Introduction of service standards;
- Pursue changing in-house advertising operating model;
- Reduce garbage in parks through technology;
- Increase automation in Community Services department;
- Re-purpose Rotary Park pool;
- Pursue changing Seniors Centre operating model;
- Plow side streets earlier; and
- Change to leased vehicles.

Several of the recommendations are subject to approval

through the Town's budget process of the related investments required to implement them. Other initiatives, such as the introduction of service standards, are expected to be undertaken using existing resources. **CR**



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## Challinor Requests Province To Fully Fund Hospital Construction

Milton Council unanimously supported a motion by Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II requesting the Province of Ontario to fully fund hospital expansions and new hospital construction and to immediately stop requesting any further financial participation by local municipalities and property taxpayers.



Mr. Challinor's motion was seconded by Ward 1 Local & Regional Councillor Colin Best.

Mr. Challinor noted that one-third of the Town of Milton's 2022 debt charges come from its provincially-dictated \$30.3 million contribution to the expansion of Milton District Hospital and, as a result, this contribution limits the Town's ability to add additional monies to reserves and/or borrow monies to fund critical municipal infrastructure.

Given the Province of Ontario agreed in 1997 to fund the expansion of the hospital with no financial participation by the Town, yet made the Town's financial participation a

requirement for getting the expansion in 2016, Mr. Challinor argued that the Province should provide full financial relief to the Town in the amount of \$30.3 million so that the Town can fund critical growth-related municipal infrastructure. Failing that, the Province should permit development charges to be deployed by the Town to fund hospital construction and/or expansion because it is growth-related infrastructure.

Mr. Challinor also argued that local property taxpayers are already funding hospital expansion and/or new hospital construction through the income taxes they pay to Ontario. Further funding these programs through their property taxes is a form of double-taxation, he concluded.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz has written letters to Ontario Premier Doug Ford and Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott requesting the province immediately stop requesting financial participation by local municipalities in hospital expansions and new hospital construction, return funding to those municipalities like Milton where financial participation was required and, failing that, permit municipalities to use development charges to fund such infrastructure. **CR**

## Challinor Requests Province Fund Local Social Services Programs

Milton Council unanimously supported a motion by Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II requesting the province of Ontario to fund recreational special needs support programs delivered by the Town of Milton, rather than have Miltonians pay for them through their property taxes.

Mr. Challinor's motion was seconded by Ward 1 Local & Regional Councillor Colin Best.

In addition to the fact that similar local programs in the community are currently funded by the Province, Mr. Challinor argued that local property taxpayers are already funding such programs through the income taxes they pay to Ontario. Further funding these programs through their property taxes is a form of double-taxation, he concluded.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz has written letters to Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott and Ontario Community & Social Services Minister Merrilee Fullerton requesting full funding to support the future delivery of these programs by the municipality. **CR**

## Challinor Motion Will See Town Fireworks Bylaw Changed

The Town of Milton will strengthen its Fireworks Bylaw as a result of a motion brought forward in late summer by Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II, following complaints by local residents about fireworks being set off illegally late at night in local parks and other public areas.

The motion was seconded by Ward 2 Local & Regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf.

Milton Fire Chief Peter Gatto, assisted by Town staff, will return to Milton Council in February 2022 with a revised bylaw that is consistent with the federal Explosives Act and Explosives Regulations, 2013, includes a proactive enforcement campaign of bylaw compliance to ensure fireworks are not being sold outside the permit guidelines, includes an enhanced fireworks safety public awareness campaign and limits fireworks discharge to the Lunar New Year, Victoria Day, Canada Day and the third day of Diwali.

The unexpected setting off of fireworks late at night can impact both human beings and animals by damaging their hearing and creating emotional distress. **CR**

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## Challinor Assisting With Local Street Name Histories And Related Policies

Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II is assisting Town of Milton Development Services staff research the history of all Milton street names as well as further define what names should be considered as future street names, moving forward.

There are more than 900 street names currently in use across the community today and Mr. Challinor has now completed researching their histories. He is having discussions with Town staff about what categories of names should be considered, in future. A series of recommendations will be made to Milton Council by staff in early 2022.

In the mid-1990s, with new development looming, former local historian the late Jim Dills, former Town planning director Mel Iovio and Mr. Challinor, supported by Heritage Milton and Milton Historical Society, successfully encouraged Milton Council to name its new streets after local citizens who had contributed to the well being of the community as well as those who had done the same provincially and nationally.

They reasoned that doing so would forge a link

between old and new through Milton's rich historical past. Mssrs. Challinor and Dills were then tasked with helping the Town to create a related policy as well as a database of researched names and replenishing it, when required.

Since 1999, the development community has been able to select from a long list of names for local streets as well as collector and arterial roads.

In 2007, Mssrs. Challinor and Dills co-authored an authoritative coffee table-quality book about their initiative, entitled Milton Streets: The Stories Behind the Villages, Hamlets, Neighbourhoods and Roads.

In May 2021, Mr. Challinor was invited by FM 101 Milton to do a weekly segment with radio personality Cameron Wikinson about the history of local street names put forward by the station's listeners. **CR**

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