



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

Challinor successfully encourages Milton Council to restore original Milton Community Fund balance

Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II successfully encouraged Milton Council to restore its annual financial allocation to Milton Community Fund to \$500,000 during 2023 Town operating and capital budget deliberations.

The original \$500,000 allocation, which was and continues to be funded entirely by Ontario Lottery Corporation proceeds from Woodbine Mohawk Park, was reduced to \$250,000 by a previous Council about 12 years ago. The restoration of the funds will have no impact on local property tax levels.

Mr. Challinor's motion was seconded by Town of Milton Ward 1 Regional Councillor Colin Best. It was approved unanimously by members of Council.

Originally supported by the Milton Council of the day and working with Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, Mr. Challinor helped to establish the Milton Community Fund in 2000.

In making his case for full restoration, Mr. Challinor said the Fund was established to help non-profit community organizations enhance the quality of life for all Miltonians by providing the monies necessary to support well-subscribed community activities and programs, finance capital initiatives in those organizations that help to build Milton's volunteer capacity and capability and ensure the community's voluntary sector keeps pace on all fronts with Canada's fastest growing municipality.

"Over the last 21 years, the annual allocation of OLG funds to the Milton Community Fund has typically represented less than 10 percent of the monies received by the Town of Milton," explained Mr. Challinor. "That low level of annual financial commitment to the Fund was not what was intended by its original drafters. Before the end of this term of Council, I will be returning to the Council table with a request to review the annual allocation to this critically important Fund. Miltonians cannot possibly continue to enjoy a great quality of life in this community without a strong and growing voluntary sector. And that requires a more fiscally supportive Milton Community Fund." **CR**



Challinor requests school crossing, pedestrian crosswalk review and future lighting consideration

Concerned about the safety of pedestrians who use pedestrian crosswalks and school crossings across the community, Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II successfully encouraged Milton Council to request their review by Town staff.

His motion was seconded by Town of Milton Ward 2 Regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf. It was unanimously supported by members of Milton Council.

Mr. Challinor has asked staff to prepare a capital budget proposal for consideration by Milton Council in 2024 that permits a review of all current pedestrian crossovers (PXOs) to determine whether or not they achieve the warrants necessary to be lighted and, if so, properly light them. He has also requested, within that same capital budget proposal, a review of all school crossings to determine which crossings can be upgraded to fully lit pedestrian crossovers.

During the last municipal election, Mr. Challinor had committed to Ward 2 property taxpayers that, if re-elected, he would formally request Council and staff to undertake a review of pedestrian crosswalks and school crossings with the objective of making them safer. **CR**



Council Supports Challinor's Request For Low Voter Turnout Review By Province

Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II received unanimous support from Milton Council for his request that the Province of Ontario and its key municipal partner organizations undertake a review of the health of Ontario's democracy as a result of historic low voter turnout during municipal and provincial elections held in 2022.

The Town of Milton experienced low voter turnout of less than 29 percent and 301 of 444 Ontario municipalities reported low voter turnout of less than 36 percent on October 24, 2022. The Province of Ontario had a historic low voter turnout of 43.53 percent on June 2, 2022.

Mr. Challinor's motion was seconded by Town of Milton Ward 1 Regional Councillor Colin Best, who is also President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), one of the six municipal organizations that has been requested to participate in the provincial review.

In his motion, Mr. Challinor specifically requested that Ontario Premier Doug Ford and his government lead a process involving key municipal partner organizations that reviews the health of the province's democracy with the objective of increasing voter turnout in future municipal, provincial and federal elections in Ontario.

"Low voter turnout is a serious threat to representative democratic government," explained Mr. Challinor. "Voting is a civic duty and responsibility because it affords a basic human right, it protects democracy, it shapes an economy, it defines government service delivery and it holds elected representatives and government employees accountable." **CR**

Challinor requests review of turn lanes on arterial roads

Long concerned that the presence of left hand/right hand turn lanes on local and regional arterial roads has not kept pace with the commercial, industrial, residential and retail growth associated with Canada's fastest growing community, Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II has successfully encouraged Milton Council to require Town staff to review the matter this year to understand what can be done to correct it.

Mr. Challinor's motion was seconded by Town of Milton Ward 2 Regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf. It was approved unanimously by members of Milton Council.

Acknowledging that one of the increasing pinch points at many local intersections is the lack of a right turn lane or a left turn lane that either isn't in place or isn't long enough to support traffic volumes, Mr. Challinor has requested Town staff to undertake a review this year of all local and regional arterial roads to determine what thoroughfares require left turn lanes and/or right turn lanes. He has also requested that Town and Regional staff review their current arterial road development policies to confirm that full left hand and right hand turn lanes are fully considered in all future roadway planning and construction and, if necessary, update their policies.

Once the review is completed, Mr. Challinor has further requested that Town staff prepare a 2024 capital budget proposal for consideration by Council that establishes the process of reconstructing those local arterial road intersections on a priority basis that can be re-engineered to accept full or partial left hand and right hand turn lanes. **CR**



Short-term rental zoning bylaw approved

The short-term rental zoning bylaw, which Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II had pursued with Town staff and the last Milton Council beginning in 2020, was approved by Council a few months prior to the municipal election last year.

Challinor reasoned that the need to license short-term rentals came about because of an increase in complaints by local property taxpayers about nearby unkempt properties, late-night noise and overnight parking problems stemming from such properties.

The new bylaw defines a short-term rental as a dwelling unit or part thereof offering short term lodging for compensation for 28 days or less that does not provide meals or other commercial services. A short-term rental does not include a bed and breakfast establishment.

Under the new policy, the following will be included:

- formal definition for a short-term rental, i.e. a rental in a residential property for 28 days or less;
- license and fee;
- requirement that short-term rentals only operate in principal residences;
- maximum number of guests per unit;
- limit of operation as short-term rental to maximum number of days per year;
- valid certificate of occupancy (zoning certificate); and Mandatory annual life safety inspections.

An additional bylaw enforcement officer has been hired to investigate complaints on weekends. **CR**

Challinor helping Town staff to find new owner for Willmott House

Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II, who also serves as President of Milton Historical Society in one of his volunteer capacities in the community, has offered to help Town staff find a new owner for the Willmott House, one of the community's most historic and important rural residential properties.

Currently owned by the Town of Milton and located behind Milton Sports Centre, Rosehill Cottage, as it is formally known, or Willmott House, as it is referred to colloquially, was built in about 1835 by John and Rachel Willmott. It is a 19th Century, Regency-style, one-and-a-half story cottage with three distinct wings. It was completely renovated and carefully maintained in the 1980s and 1990s before its purchase by the Town.

A potential purchaser must be prepared to have the house moved from Milton Sports Centre to a new site at

his or her own expense. While, because of its relatively low height and modest width, it is unlikely hydro wires or street or intersection infrastructure will need to be moved temporarily, a foundation will have to be built and hydro, water and sewer hook-up will need to be obtained at its new locale. Alternatively, the new owner could sensitively dismantle the house and store it offsite until it is determined where it is to be rebuilt.

Mr. Challinor welcomes all enquiries, as do Town staff, specifically Andy Scott, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Business Development. He can be reached at (905) 878-7211 or andy.scott@milton.ca. If an owner isn't confirmed by late spring, Willmott House will be sensitively demolished and its most historic components salvaged for use elsewhere.. **CR**



Challinor, Krantz oppose Town's 7.99% local and 4.42% blended 2023 property tax increases

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II were the only members of Milton Council to oppose the Town's recently approved 7.99% local and, ultimately, 4.42% blended property tax increase for 2023.

Mr. Challinor unsuccessfully proposed a series of financial measures that would have resulted in a 3% blended property tax increase this year, which is estimated to be the final rate of inflation for Canada over the next 12 months. All of his financial motions were seconded by Town of Milton Ward 1 Regional Councillor Colin Best.

As a result, Milton property taxpayers who own a detached home will pay \$404.17 more this year, on average. Their homes are estimated by Milton Real Estate MLS Systems to be valued at \$1.3 million, on average, as of the end of January 2023. Similarly, local ratepayers who own a townhouse will pay \$282.92 more in 2023, on average. Their homes are estimated by Milton Real East MLS Systems

to be valued at \$910,000, on average, as of the end of January this year. And, finally, local taxpayers who own a condominium will pay \$187.48 more this year, on average. Their units are estimated by Milton Real Estate MLS Systems to be valued at \$603,000, on average, as of the end of January 2023.

While discussing his proposed financial measures during budget deliberations at Council, Mr. Challinor expressed concerns about compounding the financial difficulties currently faced by many Milton landowners by levying high property tax increases on them. He cited the fact that increased borrowing rates were already forcing some homeowners to sell their properties and, further, this trend was expected by economists to continue for the remainder of the year. He warned that further burdening local taxpayers with high property taxes would only accelerate a difficult situation faced by many of them.

At press time, both Mayor Krantz and Mr. Challinor had heard from a number of Milton ratepayers from across the community who were displeased by the size of the property tax increases approved by Milton Council. Letters to the editor were also published in the Canadian Champion.

As in prior years, Mr. Challinor will meet with Town staff and the Mayor to discuss how the operating budget process can be improved next year. **CR**



Challinor continues GTAA briefings

Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II is continuing his outreach on behalf of Ward 2 residents to Pearson International Airport and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, attending a briefing in December.

While flight activity increased in 2022, it remains about 22 percent below levels experienced by Canada's largest airport prior to the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2019.

The GTAA is continuing to invest on the rehabilitation of the current runway system as well as in support of future growth requirements.

The authority is also continuing to invest in noise management programs, some of which are related to airport landing and take-off procedures and others related to the deployment of new and/or different aircraft being used by the various carriers. A pilot program update is set for release this coming summer, which will be detailed in the next edition of this newsletter. **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:

The Honourable Parm Gill

Member of Provincial Parliament, Milton
Government of Ontario
Telephone: (905) 878-1729
Email: parm.gillco@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
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

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405 Gowland Crescent | Milton, ON L9T 4B9 | Tel: 905-878-7638 | email: john.challinor@milton.ca

johnchallinor.ca