



CHALLINOR REPORT

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

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Photo by Mike Miller

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Challinor, Krantz Vote Not To Support 2024 Milton Budget

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz and Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II were the lone voices of dissent with respect to the Town's 2024 Budget, which will result in local property taxpayers paying 5.93% more for local municipal services this year.

A typical detached home in Milton, which had a market value of \$1,249,388 as of January 1, 2024, according to the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board, will pay \$5,274 in property taxes, a \$295 increase over 2023.

Similarly, a typical townhouse, which had a market value of \$867,577 as of January 1, 2024, according to TRREB, will pay \$3,663 in property taxes, a \$205 increase over 2023.

Finally, a typical condominium, which had a market value of \$586,564 as of January 1, 2024, according to TRREB, will pay \$2,476 in property taxes, a \$139 increase over 2023.

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 5 percent tax increase was

more appropriate and, further, it could be achieved by an \$825,000 to \$1.7 million reduction in discretionary spending found in the \$36 million purchased goods and services line.

“Canada is in recession, interest rates are 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. “And, the next two years are going to be particularly difficult for those 50 percent of Miltonians whose mortgages are coming due for renewal. The Town of Milton’s 2024 Budget needs to reflect that reality and Milton Council needs to acknowledge the challenges faced by Milton property owners by taking thoughtful, constructive and 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.

To help to relieve the annual operating budget pressure on property taxpayers, Mr. Challinor is recommending the establishment of two reserve funds in early 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 fiscal relief afforded by both reserves annually would equate to a 2.5 percent reduction in the impact of the current operating budget on local property taxpayers. **CR**



Challinor Encourages Council To Embrace Multi-year Fiscal Planning, Return to Regular Council/Staff Financial Workshops

During the late summer, Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II had discussed the need with senior Town staff to adopt multi-year operational budget planning as well as consider participation by Milton Council in regular financially-focused workshops.

Councillor Challinor and Town of Milton Ward 1 Local Councillor Kristina Tesser Derksen had successfully encouraged Town staff and Milton Council to organize and attend a series of similar workshops between 2019 and 2022.

Council recently unanimously approved a motion by Councillor Challinor, seconded by Town of Milton Ward 4 Local Councillor Sarah Marshall, to resume regular financially-focused workshop activity during this term of Council as well as to develop a detailed multi-year financial strategy for the corporation. Councillor Marshall and Councillor Tesser Derksen had also expressed their concerns to Town staff in early fall about the need for such workshops.

Councillor Challinor indicated that an in-depth, multi-year operational budget plan will help the Town of Milton weather economic uncertainty and uneven funding activity by the senior levels of government in the years to come.

He also strongly believes that regular fiscally-oriented workshops attended by Council and staff will improve everyone's understanding of the financial challenges faced by the municipality as well as improve fiscal literacy. **CR**

Pearson International Air Traffic Continuing To Increase Over Milton

The Greater Toronto Airports Authority recently reported that air traffic over the Greater Toronto Area, including Milton, during the first nine months of 2023 increased to 88 percent of what it was in 2019, prior to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Passenger growth increased 11.9 percent for the first three quarters of 2023 at Toronto Pearson Airport, relative to the same period in 2022.

All five runways were in use in 2023 and all contributed to air traffic above Milton. The GTAA continued to implement noise management procedures as well as work with the airline industry to do the same. The procedures are part of a strategic, multi-year plan to reduce air traffic noise over the GTA in the face of heavier use of the airport and greater use by larger airplanes. **CR**

Consumer Fireworks Banned In Milton

Milton Council formally banned the distribution, sale and discharge of consumer fireworks across the community, as of December 2023.

Fireworks displays celebrating such activities as Chinese Lunar New Year, Victoria Day, Canada Day and Diwali will be permitted if they occur at a venue approved by the Town of Milton, if the setting off of the commercial display is approved by the municipality and if the display is discharged by certified, professional personnel as, for example, takes place on Canada Day at Milton Fairgrounds each year.

Council's decision is supported by the National Fire Protection Association, which encourages local residents to leave fireworks discharge to certified commercial professionals, as consumer use of fireworks across North America has resulted in significant property damage, thousands of injuries and numerous deaths annually.

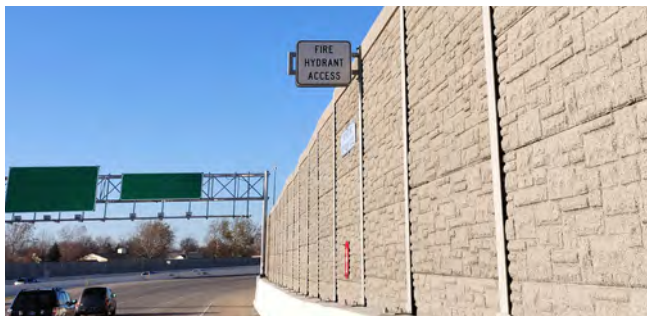
Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II, who brought forward the proposal to ban the sale of consumer fireworks locally, said that the unexpected setting off of consumer fireworks late at night can impact both human beings and animals by damaging their hearing and creating emotional distress. **CR**

Milton Evolving To Safer Neighbourhood Streets

Existing school crossings and pedestrian crossovers were reviewed by Town staff in late 2023, following a request by Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II, which was supported unanimously by Milton Council, and are being upgraded throughout the community, based on traffic counts.

All future school crossings and pedestrian crossovers will be reviewed regularly, in future, to ensure their effectiveness. Council and Town staff are further contemplating deploying raised crosswalks at pedestrian crossovers, which would force vehicles to slow down before passing over them.

In late 2023, Council approved 40 km/h neighbourhood zones in Ward 4. The effectiveness and cost associated with this reduced speed limit will be reviewed by Council in the first quarter of 2024 and, if found to be a reasonable solution on all counts, will be implemented across the rest of the community. **CR**



Challinor Successfully Requests Town To Petition Province For Sound Barriers Along Highway 401

The Town of Milton will request the Province of Ontario to install sound barriers along Highway 401 where there are residential neighbourhoods adjacent to North America's busiest superhighway as a result of a motion brought before Milton Council to consider same by Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II.

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

Ward 2 Regional Councillor Rick Malboeuf and Mr. Challinor had brought the matter of sound barriers before Council early in 2020 during the widening of Highway 401 through Milton, but the global COVID-19 pandemic prevented any further discussion between the Town and the Province.

With the Province's plan to do additional considerable roadwork on Highway 401 between Steeles Avenue and the Milton-Puslinch boundary, Mr. Challinor believes there is another opportunity to raise the sound barrier matter again and permit the Province the time required to plan for it, financially.

Given there are sound barriers along the Queen Elizabeth Way and Ontario's 400 series of highways where they pass by significant residential neighbourhoods across the province, Mr. Challinor reasons his request is a reasonable one. **CR**

Challinor Gets Council Support To Ask Province For Better Highway 401 Signage Though Milton

Town of Milton Ward 2 Local Councillor John Challinor II has garnered the support of Milton Council in his efforts to get the Province of Ontario to formally acknowledge Milton's existence at all of the Highway 401 interchanges that take motorists into Canada's fastest growing community.

His motion was seconded by Ward 1 Regional Councillor Colin Best and was unanimously approved by members of Council.

Once the Highway 401 interchange at Tremaine Road is completed later this year, there will be five exits into Milton, stretching from Trafalgar Road in the east to Guelph Line in the west, with James Snow Parkway, Regional Road 25 and Tremaine Road located in between.

Today, unlike at most interchanges across the province, Highway 401 motorists are not properly informed that they are entering Milton.

Mr. Challinor would like signage that informs motorists heading east towards Guelph Line or heading west towards Trafalgar Road that the next five interchanges exit into Milton. He would also like motorists informed that when they head south on those five interchanges, they are heading into Milton.

He added that motorists should also be informed that when they head south on some of those interchanges, they are also headed towards Oakville or Burlington, where appropriate. Similarly, when they head north, they should be informed that they are headed to Rockwood, Acton or Georgetown, where appropriate. **CR**



Good Neighbours Day Returns to Milton

Good Neighbours Day, the popular community-led, volunteer neighbourhood clean-up program founded in 1992 by former Ward 2 resident, the late Len Lee (1942 - 2023), will return on Saturday May 4th after a five-year hiatus.

Starting off with registration and breakfast at 8 a.m. at Hugh Foster Hall, located beside Town Hall, volunteers will be given their tasks, a t-shirt and cleaning products and, by 9 a.m. they will be on their way for a half-day or full day of cleaning parks, walking areas, hiking areas, roadsides and ditches, the banks of 16 Mile Creek or the Mill Pond and private property owned by local senior citizens. **CR**

Good Neighbours Day

For further information or to register, visit www.miltongoodneighboursday.ca or email: miltongoodneighbours@gmail.com

Key Government Contacts:

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