



# CHALLINOR REPORT

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

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## Hamid and Challinor Enhance Accountability At Town Hall

*In the weeks and months following my return to Milton Council in December 2018 after a 12-year absence, I began to notice that some of the important decision-assist information made available to me as a member of Council between 1991 and 2006 was no longer provided to Council.*

Further, basic accountability, transparency and governance standards adopted by many of Canada's publicly-traded companies, its larger non-profit entities and major non-governmental organizations had not been adopted by the Town of Milton, requirements that I felt would benefit Council, staff and local residents.

Town of Milton Regional and Local Ward 4 Councillor Zee Hamid had expressed similar frustrations, as had some others around the Council table. To his credit, Councillor Hamid did something about it. I assisted him, where needed, being knowledgeable about past Town reporting standards and having implemented governance structures at some non-profit organizations elsewhere across Canada where I had chaired the Boards of Directors.

I am confident the updated reporting standards, expected to be enacted this fall, will support Milton Council's legislated responsibility under Section 224 of the Ontario Municipal Act as well as put the municipality in the forefront of good governance, municipally, in Canada. **CR**

## Challinor Helps Re-set Municipal Tax Roll Fine Levels In Milton

*The fines associated with overdue tax roll accounts at the Town of Milton has changed.*

Based on a local resident's complaint to me about a \$170 administrative fee on an overdue \$10 tax roll charge, I worked with Town of Milton Finance staff to re-write the related bylaw, which was supported by Milton Council this past spring.

The administrative fee was reduced to \$50 but, more importantly, the bylaw is now more precise as to how it treats overdue taxes at specific levels. When fully implemented, the new fee schedule will not only reflect the true cost of managing a delinquent account, but will also give consideration to the value of the sum that is actually overdue.

Town of Milton Finance staff deserve much thanks from local taxpayers for this thoughtful change. **CR**

## Milton District High School 100th Anniversary Postponed To 2021

*Milton District High School, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in our community this year, has had to postpone its planned festivities for October 2 and 3 of this year to October, 2021, because of COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions.*

Organizers had put together an action-packed agenda for the fall, including a walk back in history, a video montage featuring notable MDHS grads like former astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield, Womens' National Basketball Association star Kayla Alexander and former JAG TV star David James Elliott, a pub crawl and a golf tournament.

As COVID-related health matters in Milton become clearer, organizers will advise revised dates and plans. **CR**

## Pearson International Airport Flight Plan Update

During the latest teleconference briefing that I attended with elected officials from across the Greater Toronto Area in late April, Pearson International Airport staff outlined how construction work on some of its major runways and taxiways would change, as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on air travel.

The bottom line is that the impact of construction will be less visible over Milton skies this summer because of lower traffic levels. Work periods and durations are under review and the order of work has changed. Some projects that once were sequential no longer are.

Concrete slabs are scheduled to be replaced, complemented by a full length milling and paving, on Runway 15L/33R and concrete slab replacement is scheduled for Taxiway H, Runway 15L/33R.

All work is scheduled to be completed by the Civic Holiday weekend in August 2020. **CR**



## Challinor Gets Bylaw Approved To Deal With Illegal Clothing Bins

Almost two years after a local resident raised with me the matter of illegal clothing bins being placed on Milton streets, I was finally able to work with Town staff to develop a bylaw that Milton Council approved earlier this spring that will effectively deal with them.

While Guru Garib Niwaj Welfare Society, the Brantford, Ontario-based charity that placed the illegal bin at 500 Laurier Avenue may be a worthy cause, although the clothes it collects are shipped offshore rather than distributed to needy Canadians, there are three significant challenges with this location:



1. The property owner at 500 Laurier Avenue never gave the charity permission to place the bins on his property. The charity has not responded to his requests, his lawyer's requests, or my requests to remove the bins;
2. Some Miltonians are using the clothing bins as a dumping ground for old furniture, broken toilets and general rubbish. These materials have had to be removed at either taxpayer expense or the property owner's expense because of complaints by his tenants or nearby residents; and
3. The bins now contravene the Town of Milton's Community Standards Bylaw.

For those Miltonians with clothing, furniture and other items that they wish to dispose of, I recommend the following solutions instead of patronizing illegal clothing bins:

1. Drop these items off at the following locations:
  - [Salvation Army Thrift Store](#), 420 Main Street East
  - [The CornerThrift.ca](#), 100 Nipissing Road - Unit 4
  - [Habitat For Humanity](#), 700 Main St East.What you drop off there helps your fellow Miltonians in countless ways;
2. Host a garage sale and donate the proceeds to your favourite charity; or
3. Take the items to Halton Waste Management Site where, for a nominal fee, you can dispose of them. **CR**

## Top Ten Ways To Be A Great Miltonian This Summer And Fall

What follows are the Top Ten complaints I have received over the last 18 months since being elected as your Local Councillor. Let's work on all of them together in the months to come with a view to eliminating them and creating a better place for all of us to live, work and play:

### Challenge: Speeding through residential neighbourhoods

**Solution:** Demographically, Milton is now the youngest community in Halton and one of the youngest in the Greater Toronto Area. That means there are a lot of young people crossing and sometimes playing on our residential streets, riding bicycles and attending our schools. Please follow the speed limit, drive according to the road conditions, watch out for children and, overall, drive defensively. No-one wants to see anyone make a mistake on our streets that they will regret for the rest of their lives.

### Challenge: Running red lights

**Solution:** It has become all too common in Milton, but that doesn't make it right. It is against the law to run a red light. When you do it, you put your own life at risk as well as someone else's.

### Challenge: Parking over sidewalks and across boulevards

**Solution:** Parking over a sidewalk or even partially over a sidewalk is illegal. Parking on or partially over a sidewalk also doesn't allow a pedestrian or someone in a wheelchair to walk or wheel safely along that sidewalk. Parking on the boulevard between the sidewalk and the roadway is legal, unless the driveway is located within 50 metres of an intersection. Then, doing so is illegal. Why? It impairs their ability to turn onto a nearby street.

### Challenge: Allowing long grass and weeds to grow on lawns

**Solution:** Keep Milton beautiful — cut your lawn and the boulevard in front of your home on a regular basis. Collect the grass cuttings from the sidewalk and the street when you're done. And, if there is garbage or animal waste on your lawn, pick it up immediately as it is unsightly, smelly and attracts rodents. The Town of Milton's Clean Yards Bylaw does not permit grass or weeds to be more than 8 inches or 20.32 cm tall. If you are unable to cut your grass because of a physical ailment or disability, please notify the Town.

### Challenge: Leaving grass cuttings on streets / sidewalks

**Solution:** After you have cut the grass, immediately collect the grass clippings from the sidewalk or street because leaving them there is a violation of the Town's Road Fouling Bylaw. To help avoid leaving grass on the sidewalk or street,

buy a grass bag for your mower or turn the mower around so the grass clippings land on the boulevard or lawn.

### Challenge: Storing recycling/garbage bins on the front porch

**Solution:** The vast majority of homes in Milton have a garage or carport, both of which were designed to store automobiles, lawn mowers, tools and recycling bins/garbage bins. Leaving recycling and garbage bins on your front porch is unsightly, smelly and attracts rodents. It is also a violation of the Town's Property Standards Bylaw.

### Challenge: Placing basketball nets on boulevards

**Solution:** Basketball nets are permitted to be placed on a driveway or on the edge of the roadway in front of the driveway. Please ensure they are properly secured to prevent a possible injury from a tip-over. Placing them on the boulevard is a violation of the Town's Road Fouling Bylaw. Doing so has the potential to destroy the grass and damage the trees. Once they are no longer in use, they should immediately be placed in the garage or on the driveway adjacent to the garage.

### Challenge: Building driveway extensions

**Solution:** Driveway extensions are permitted on the property owner's portion of the driveway without a permit, provided the extension meets the Town's Zoning Bylaw criteria. No extensions are permitted on the public property portion of the driveway. Doing so is a violation of the Town's Road Fouling Bylaw.

### Challenge: Making noise

**Solution:** Milton's neighbourhoods are to be quiet between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. Depending on the type of noise, the evening hour can be extended to 11 p.m. That's only fair to those who work, those with young children, those who are struggling with a family matter or others who just want to get a good night's rest. For the sake of your neighbours, keep the music down, put the Harley to bed early and take the Leafs-Canadiens debate inside.

### Challenge: Parking overnight on streets

**Solution:** No parking on residential streets is permitted between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., unless an on-street parking exception is obtained from the Town of Milton. It is strictly enforced through the Town's Parking Bylaw.

**CR**

## Challinor Calls For Federal Royal Commission COVID-19 Post-Mortem

As the Federal Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario decide how Miltonians will safely interact with one another, who of us works and who of us doesn't and where we go and where we don't go, the Town of Milton has been left to react to these shifting sands, providing temporary relief where the municipality has the authority to do so.

Thus far, the Town has completed the following in support of its residents and businesses:

1. Deferred property and business tax payments;
2. Set aside bylaws and fees to permit restaurant owners to erect temporary patios adjacent to their premises to serve their clients this summer and fall;
3. Developed a financial plan, a re-opening plan and a staffing plan for its parks, recreational facilities and many other programs it provides Miltonians.

Once our country, our province and our municipality are back to some semblance of normalcy, a Royal Commission should be established federally to conduct a post-mortem on Canada's management of the pandemic. Further, that Commission should look at how the matter was also dealt with provincially and municipally. Finally, all Canadians should be encouraged to provide their individual perspectives so that a fulsome picture is created, permitting

a more complete review as well as laying the foundation for more effective planning and response, in future.

Regardless of what the Federal Government does, I will be requesting that the Town conduct its own post-mortem.

All of us should be concerned about Canada's planning readiness and response to the COVID-19 outbreak. And, each of us should also be carefully monitoring how fully our individual freedoms are restored, post-COVID-19, in accordance with the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms.

In my view, some decisions taken by the senior levels of government were quite possibly unconstitutional, some were very likely unfair to certain businesses, non-profit and religious groups and some were undoubtedly fiscally irresponsible, especially given their anticipated impact on current and future generations of Canadians.

I will be watching very closely on your behalf and keeping you informed. **CR**

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