



CHALLINOR REPORT

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

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Council decides on 2019 property tax levy increase

By a narrow 5-4 vote on February 4, 2019, members of Milton Council ruled that the Town of Milton's portion of the property tax levy will increase this year by 8.30% or almost four times the rate of inflation.

However, when blended with the estimated 2019 budgets of the Regional Municipality of Halton and the public and Catholic school boards, the property tax levy will increase this year by 3.67% or about twice the current rate of inflation.

The average home in Milton is valued at \$789,162, according to current Milton Multiple Listing Service (MLS) figures. That equates to a \$158.70 increase in local property taxes for the average Milton homeowner. Including Region and school board property tax increases, that equates to a \$202.42 total property tax increase this year for the average homeowner. Mayor Gord Krantz, Regional Councillors Colin

Best and Rick Malboeuf and I voted against the tax increase. Best, Malboeuf and I brought numerous budget reduction proposals before Council, most of which were rejected out-of-hand.

As I said during the election campaign, the current financial situation at the Town of Milton is not sustainable. While I am very disappointed by the 2019 tax increase, particularly for seniors on fixed incomes and young families with mortgages, I hope that the Core Services Review this year and other review measures planned by Town staff have the effect of returning future operating budgets to a fiscally responsible rate of inflation level. **CR**

Milton Re-engaging With Toronto International Airport On Airport Noise

In June 2015, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) and NAV Canada began a conversation to explore noise mitigation ideas with communities across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). These conversations led to the creation of the Toronto Noise Mitigation Initiatives Engagement Plan, commonly known as the Six Ideas.

However, neither the Town of Milton or its residents were consulted on this initiative -- until now. Recent, politically-motivated and an ultimately unhelpful resolution in mid-2018 by Halton Regional Council has gone by the wayside -- to be replaced by regular

discussions between Town staff and GTAA and NAV Canada staff. I also recently met GTAA staff about the impacts of airplane noise on our community, as I had done on a regular basis when I last represented you between 1991 and 2006.

I will be encouraging a formal relationship between the Town of Milton and GTAA at a senior level at the appropriate time later this year and will also be seeking a constructive and meaningful way to prevent the recent and very clear lack of communication between the two organizations from ever occurring again. **CR**



Eight New Members To Be Inducted Into Milton's Walk Of Fame

On the recommendation of Milton Historical Society and the approval by Milton Council on December 17, 2018, eight new members of the Town of Milton Walk of Fame will be inducted at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday February 23, 2019, in the main foyer at Town Hall.

Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) player Kayla Alexander, two-time world martial arts champion Scott Hogarth, retired Canadian Football League offensive lineman Matt O'Meara, retired CFL offensive lineman Matt Sewell, international philanthropist and businessman Arthur Fleming (posthumous), St. Lawrence Seaway co-founder Oscar Fleming (posthumous), international geologist George Sherwood Hume (posthumous) and world-renowned metallurgical engineer Bert Wasmund will join 54 other Miltonians past and present who have already been inducted.

To be inducted, a nominee must have been born in Milton or spent his/her formative or creative years here; a nominee must have lived in the community for a minimum of ten years; a nominee's accomplishments must be national and/or international in scope; a 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 a nominee's achievement must fit into following fields: athletics, arts and entertainment, business and industry, government and public service or health and science. **CR**

Milton Opts Out On Marijuana Retail Stores – For Now

In deciding to opt-out of permitting marijuana retail stores in our community for the time being by a solid 7-2 vote on December 17, 2018, Milton Council sent a strong message to Queen's Park and Parliament Hill about the quality of their planning and roll-out of the legal use of this hallucinogen for recreational purposes. It was approved for medical purposes in 2016.

I voted to opt out, as I promised I would during the municipal election campaign last fall. My statement on the matter from September 2018 can be found at <https://johnchallinor.ca/ask-john-a-question/>

At this writing, both higher levels of government have failed Miltonians with respect to this matter:

- No funding has been provided for policing, whether training officers to deal with impaired drivers or enabling the purchase of detection technology for police cruisers;
- No funding has been provided for drug rehabilitation service providers like Hope Place Centres, which is the only alcohol and drug treatment facility serving our community;
- No funding has been provided for bylaw enforcement services required to deal with neighbourhood complaints regarding recreational marijuana use.

The \$46,000 that Milton is estimated to receive from the Province, whether it opted out or not, will not cover the administrative costs associated with dealing with the establishment of marijuana retail shops in our community, let alone begin to cover the costs associated with policing, drug rehab treatment or bylaw enforcement. But, despite poor planning by the federal and provincial governments on this file, the Town of Milton must prepare for every eventuality before April 1, 2019. This includes contemplating interim control measures, business licence fees and zoning bylaws, despite the fact that the Province has essentially removed our community's ability to decide where retail marijuana shops will and will not be established. **CR**

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Town Agrees With Challinor To Do Core Services Review

As part of its approval of the 2019 Town of Milton Operating and Capital Budget, Milton Council agreed to undertake a Core Services Review, which I had recommended be done by the municipality during the municipal election campaign last fall.

It is vital that all Town of Milton services are affordable, excellent and relevant. A Core Services Review will provide a check-and-balance, in that regard. As I said during the election campaign, a review should occur every four years and should be co-ordinated with long-term budgeting and planning, including infrastructure investment and residential/commercial growth.

While a number of municipal services are delivered well in our community, the Core Services Review will determine if any could be delivered better and more economically – and how do they mesh with the long-term plans for the community. **CR**

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WLU/Conestoga College Milton Campus on Hold – For Now

The Government of Ontario's decision in October 2018 to withdraw funding for the proposed Wilfrid Laurier University/Conestoga College campus in the Milton Education Village came as little or no surprise to some, given the new Government's inherited \$15 billion operating budget deficit and rumours in and around Queen's Park as early as last summer that no financial paperwork could be found related to the \$90 million initial phase of the initiative promised by the previous Government.

The \$90 million was earmarked to help Laurier establish an innovative academic centre of excellence in the Milton Education Village. Laurier, in partnership with Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, was eager to bring academic programming to the west side of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Building on its sector-leading expertise in Science, Technology, Mathematics and the Arts (STEAM), Laurier's Milton site would introduce complementary Engineering undergraduate programs linking students to highly skilled STEAM opportunities.

The Milton Education Village was designed to bring to life our community's vision for a comprehensively-planned neighbourhood, integrating post-secondary education, residential, commercial and recreational uses into a 400-acre area alongside the Niagara Escarpment. It's genesis dates back to 1993 and the establishment of the original Destiny Milton community plan, which helped to establish the parameters for the growth we are now experiencing.

When the announcement was made, some 36 hours after I was elected your councillor, I immediately reached out to Parm Gill, our Member of Provincial Parliament at Queen's Park who represents Milton. Parm and I had constructive communications about the matter and have agreed to work together over the next four years to advocate for secure funding for the Laurier/Conestoga initiative at Milton's Education Village, working within the operating and capital budget parameters long established by the Province of Ontario to ensure our community achieves its post-secondary school education vision. **CR**

Milton Council Supports Challinor's Motion To Cut Government Red Tape

Seconded by Mike Cluett, Regional Councillor, Ward 3, and supported by all members of Milton Council, I successfully brought forward a motion that asks staff to report back to Council in March 2019 with a list of provincial regulations that impede the Town of Milton's ability to effectively serve its citizens, operate more efficiently and better plan for the future.

The fact of the matter is that, over time, successive Provincial governments have made it financially and operationally difficult for the Town of Milton to deliver programs and services to its various publics as effectively and efficiently as the Town deems appropriate. All departments that make up the Town of Milton will identify those specific pieces of provincial legislation that most severely financially and operationally impair their abilities to achieve their stated mandates and should be rescinded or revised.

Town staff report will back to Council with their findings, including identifying financial and service-level impacts, so that Council can communicate these concerns in a timely fashion to the Premier of Ontario, the Cabinet Minister and Ministry responsible, the Member of Provincial Parliament for Milton, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Regional Municipality of Halton, area municipalities and other agencies, boards and commissions, where appropriate. **CR**

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