

Editorial

Immigration report a dose of reality

The recently-released report on immigrants, and the government of Canada's immigration policy, represents a welcomed dose of reality into a situation that has been allowed to stagnate because of bureaucratic fear of offending certain sensibilities.

The report has already been branded as insensitive by bleeding-hearts headline hunters and racist by self-serving groups that in themselves are racist because of their navel-gazing commitment to furthering their own demands - and Canada be damned.

The report, prepared by the Economic Council of Canada, suggests that immigration be slowed and that immigrants should know more about Canadian values and laws and that less money be spent on "emphasizing differences" in Canadian society.

This is stating nothing less than the obvious and should be accepted as such.

Judith Maxwell, who heads the council, has gone on record as saying, Canada needs to pass on to immigrants, "a common set of values and common commitment to Canada." This should be a given; an obvious criteria for obtaining entry into Canada, but some groups object.

Bernard Bouska, executive director of the Ethnocultural Council of Canada, is reportedly miffed with the report. He is angry over the fact that immigrants should be required to get more training in Canadian laws and values. "That contradicts what Canada is," he is reported as claiming. "On the one hand, they're saying we want your languages, your traditions, but on the other hand, they're saying we should quell those traditions."

We beg to differ with Mr. Bouska. There is nothing in the report suggesting immigrants give up their language, culture or traditions. Simply, that they learn more about the country they wish to enter. Surely, this is not too much to ask.

In a similar vein, immigration lawyer Lorne Waldman says Canada should not reduce immigration levels "because of our own personal interests."

Waldman feels Canada has a moral obligation to people in the Third World.

It is only through the benevolence of the Canadian government that Third World countries receive aid from Canada and again, only through the benevolence of the Canadian government that Third World refugees and immigrants are allowed entry into Canada. It is obvious whose 'personal interests' are being looked after.

Canada is suffering through its worst recession in eight years and the annual inflation rate rose to 6.8 per cent in January.

In January alone, 888 more jobs were lost in Ontario, as 11 establishments closed their doors, according to the provincial labor ministry. The ministry also reports that an additional 1,992 jobs were lost due to reduced operations at 14 companies and eight partial closings.

It is worth noting that immigrants from throughout the world made the country we call Canada with its multicultural mosaic.

It should similarly be worth noting that during this time of economic hardship, which is affecting every sector of the country, the Canadian government has a primary obligation to its own citizens.

An obligation it should not - and cannot - foresake just for the sake of appearances.

If the flow of refugees and immigrants must be slowed or stricter entry requirements put in place for the good of the country as a whole, then so be it. This is neither racist or non-caring, simply common sense.

Something Canada has needed from its leaders for quite some time.

Political masters control Canadians

Dear Editor:

Your article in The Weekend Outlook of Feb. 15th on home ownership shows how we have allowed our political masters to completely control Canadians.

Who are these people that think they have the power to take away the peoples property rights? Answer - every political party, except the Libertarian Party.

Politicians allow us to pay taxes, but do not allow us to own our own property. Fancy that.

Politicians allow us to elect them, then proceed to take anything and everything for themselves, at the same time taking anything and everything from the rest of Canadians.

Now, Garth Turner says we should make submissions to the Spicer Commission to get our rights back. He also says build a national coalition with the goal of influencing MP's so that we get these rights.

It seems to me that you have got this all about face, Garth. We, the people will decide if we want property rights, and yes we do. The big question is how we allow clowns in power to behave the way they do.

Libertarians are, and have been for 15 years, for pro-individual rights.

John Shadbolt,
Libertarian, Acton.

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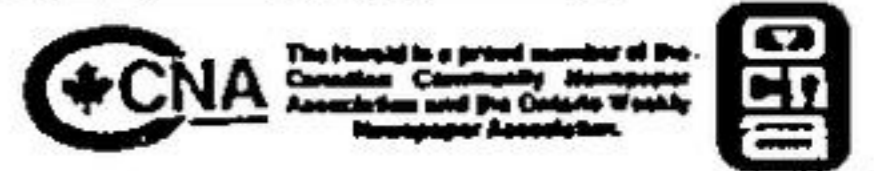
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People's Forum Thanks from Cancer Society

To the Editor:

"The Spectacular New Age Vaudeville Show for 1991," held on February 15th and 16th, was an outstanding success with two sold out performances. The Halton Hills (Georgetown) Unit was the beneficiary of the shows and very grateful thanks are to be extended to all involved.

We give our heartfelt thanks to Edgar Thatcher and Victor J. Hanson for their many talents and the time they spent in organizing such a gala event. Sincere thanks go to Jeff Bradley, Double Exposure's Bill and Janine Kent, Debbie Tilson, Ann Thatcher, Kevin Head and Peter James for putting on a super show that will last for a long time in our memories.

Special thanks go to all the "behind the scenes" workers who, through their many talents, had the show down to a fine art.

We wish to thank the public for their ongoing support of the Cancer Society and our many sponsors, Linda Donais, Donna Griffith, Pictures and Presents, The Herald, The Independent, Young's Pharmacy, J.V. Clothing, Halton Rapid Print, MVP Distributing, Hallmark, Kentner's, Paul Armstrong Insurance, Beaumont Music, Johnson Real Estate, Art Effects Gallery and Framing Centre, The Sign Shoppe, N.C. Pestille Limited, Georgetown Rental, Office Magic, Ramrock Electric, and Broomhead Printing.

Thanks to the many sponsors of our In Memorial section of the program for the many donations they made in memory of their loved ones.

A very special "thank you" goes to our local newspapers for their wonderful coverage of this event as well as the great job they did reporting items leading up to

"The Spectacular New Age Vaudeville Show for 1991". The Herald and the Independent have given us super coverage all along and we express our deepest gratitude to them for a job well

done.

Mariene Kelman,
Communications Chairperson,
Halton Hills (Georgetown) Unit,
Canadian Cancer Society.

Georgetown 'nobody' addresses Gori

Dear Editor:

After spending seven years living in Toronto amongst various cultures, experiencing the lifestyle and political attitudes, I returned to Georgetown three years ago with my eyes widened and armed with a clearer perception of the "real world."

I'm pleased to say that I enjoy living in this community and like all that it has to offer. The community papers are very good and I turn to these sources for quality information so that I may keep abreast of local issues.

"People's Forum" is of particular interest because it allows people to express concerns, observations, etc., providing citizens with the opportunity to see the other side of the

va of issues. Acton

However, when someone such as Mr. Gori writes, I think the column's title should change to "Political Forum." It would seem that he has one submission published per week and the overtones are definitely politically motivated to enhance the FCP's social/moral position. Mr. Gori's primary goal? You figure it out.

Having read his recent blatherings, I deduced from the tone of his referrals to "she", "her" and finally "Joan", that he was merely discounting her opinions and

person. This was further compounded by his gross manipulation of "her" letter. I think it is safe to say that "she" - in Mr. Gori's evident perception, is a nobody.

Based on that premise, anyone who does not adhere to Mr. Gori's rigid definition of a morally correct person is a "nobody". Well, "nobody" believes in birth control and abortion and common-law marriage and...

If Mr. Gori is providing us with an example of a "nobody," then I would like to be a "nobody" in his eyes. Especially if being a "somebody" would require me to pass value judgements, deny my contemporaries the choice of their direction in life and psychologically castrate those who seek unbiased opinions.

Sifting through his semantics, it is also evident Mr. Gori has an axe to grind with society (I liken it to the Inquisition), but I think he has a misconception of this community. We are not and never will be a homogeneous mass of no-minded people who can be manipulated by any single group - save our present government.

I'm glad I live in Georgetown!

Sincerely,
Paul Ruddell
(a "Nobody")
Georgetown.