

Gale family waits for son's call

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Canada will be supporting the United Nations by sending 2,000 military into the battle and their son Tom will be one of them.

"It is a necessary evil I would think under the circumstances," Gerry said. "Everybody is afraid to die. There isn't anybody in their right mind that wants anybody to be shooting at them."

"If I had any political pull today in this country I think under the present situation, Canada should have compulsory service," Gerry said.

While he believes Canada should stand by its commitment to the United Nations, Gerry thinks Canadian politicians are mimicking their American counterparts, rather than deciding for themselves.

"I don't think you've got three (federal MPs) making the decisions that have served in the armed forces. They're making decisions they're not qualified to make," he said.

He notes that one of the three Canadian ships in the Persian Gulf had to be "pulled out of mothballs" and rehabilitated before it could be sent. Three ships, 24 plans and 2,000 military personnel is a drop in the bucket compared to the 450,000 personnel, the United States has on alert.

At the Gales' Sims Gate home, several yellow ribbons are tied around trees in the yard. A sign in the front yard says: "These ribbons, representing the bravery of men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces are dedicated to Tommy Gale. From his aunts in Nova Scotia."

Lots of people stop to read the sign, or honk and wave as they go by. A young girl on her way to school showed Marilyn a yellow ribbon she was wearing for Tom.

This kind of acknowledgement makes the Gales feel better — knowing they're not alone as they watch the news bulletins and wait by the phone.

"We spoke to him on the phone on Friday (January 11). He couldn't say much ...," said Marilyn.

"If everything goes according to plan, he's due home in March. But who knows what'll happen," Gerry said.

Food drive

The Love In Christ Food Bank will be holding a food drive, Monday, January 21 to Friday, January 25. Boxes will be placed in every bank in Georgetown and residents can bring their non-perishable food to these locations.

Nominations wanted

The Georgetown Lions Club is looking for nominations for the 1990 Citizen of the Year. Nominations should include a resume and as much information as possible to help the selection committee. They should be postmarked no later than Jan. 31 and mailed to the Georgetown Lions Club at P.O. Box 73, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4T1.

University women

The University Womens Club of Georgetown is presenting the Oakville Symphony Orchestra playing "An Evening of Russian Music on Saturday, Jan. 19. Kate Reid will be narrating Peter and the Wolf and Arthur Ozolins will perform piano Concerto #2 by Rachmaninoff. Tickets are available for \$18 from Young's Pharmacy and the Hallmark store. For more information, call 877- 3354 or 877-5662.

Adult classes

Adult day classes at Georgetown High School for semester two begin soon. Registration dates are Jan. 24 to 30, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Sue Grant at 877-6966.

Regional councillor says:

Condoms in schools leads to 'barnyard sexual attitudes

By ROB KELLY

Installing condom dispensing machines in Halton high schools would exhibit "a barnyard sexual attitude," says Halton regional councillor Ralph Scholtens.

Scholtens made the comment at the regional health and social services committee meeting Monday afternoon as councillors pondered a report suggesting that the Halton Board of Education may well put such machines in area high schools.

Scholtens adheres to what are popularly regarded as highly conservative religious positions. He counts himself as a member of one of "the groups of people who live by very strict morals" and believes that any member of Halton's Muslim, Jewish or fundamentalist-leaning Christian faiths will share his opposition to condom distribution through the public educational system.

The spectre of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is raised in the regional report. The report, written by

Halton health director Robert Nosal, indicates the Region would offer whatever support necessary to make condoms available to teenage students.

Scholtens said Dr. Nosal, in backing the program, was undoubtedly relying on "the old cliché" that the school condom distribution "issue isn't one of morals," but merely another health problem. It isn't so, the Burlington councillor contended.

Among practitioners of religions which deplore casual sex, "the amount of AIDS prevalent... is considerably less. If you practice morals, it will be a lot closer to being prevented."

Should the proposal become a reality, it will constitute an insult to every taxpayer who pays into the school system but attempts to veer children away from casual sex, the councillor said.

"We now have a situation where the children are taught one thing at home - and all of a sudden we have condom machines

(in the schools)." The school board might as well say, "Go ahead, have sex. It's great," Scholtens contended.

One councillor, who only became a member of the health and social services committee this month, appeared taken aback by Scholtens' claim to the moral high ground.

"I'd like to thank Councillor Scholtens for his sermon," said Halton Hills representative Rick Bonnette. Councillors must grapple with the reality of teenage sex and the potential of sexually transmitted diseases among youths, Bonnette indicated. To not do so "would be putting our heads in the sand. I have absolutely no problem with putting (condom) machines in (high school) washrooms."

The report was presented to councillors for information only, requiring no formal action. It's up to the Halton Board of Education to decide if it will be implemented.

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