

# Editorial

## License-free weekend

"Our true north strong and free", goes a line in Canada's national anthem.

This can mean many things to many people. But far too often, one aspect of the meaning of the line is either ignored or never even thought off.

This aspect is our land. Our lakes, our forests, our mountains, our rivers - even our wilderness areas - are often taken for granted.

It is doubtful the Canadian experience we enjoy nowadays would be anywhere near comparable had our land not been strong, free and bountiful originally.

Unfortunately, through government inference at all levels - including exorbitant hunting and fishing licences, high taxation on gasoline, admission prices into various park lands - fewer and fewer people (Americans as well as Canadians) are taking advantage of the magnificent panorama that is the Canadian outdoors.

The recession-ridden tourism and recreation fishing industries are being particularly hard hit and this is costing Ontario millions of dollars in revenue - not to mention untold numbers of lost jobs.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has come up with an idea to both get us back into the outdoors and pump some much-needed money into the provincial coffers.

Taking a lead from a successful experiment in Manitoba, the OFAH has proposed to the Ministry of Natural Resources that there be a fishing license-free weekend each summer, starting the Civic Holiday weekend in August.

The OFAH feels this family-oriented project would not only be attractive to those fishing for the first time, but also to those who have given up on the sport because of rising costs.

The organization has offered to work with the MNR and Ministry of Tourism to ensure the success of the weekend.

OFAH executive vice president Rick Morgan noted, "Offering the license-free weekend would be a tremendous way to stop the temptation of fishing throughout the year without a license, while encouraging more people to enjoy Ontario's great outdoors."

It was also felt that waiving the fishing license for the one weekend would also be a major boost for tourism and for retailers selling fishing equipment.

It's an idea our provincial government should explore, if only to show that it does indeed care about input from the public in any number of areas.

## Bouquets and brickbats

### To the Editor:

The Parents' Association of Sacré-Coeur School wishes to thank you for your interest in our school activities. Personally, as president of our PTA, I was pleased that you published our article on the Francophone Week and that you sent a photographer/journalist to the Georgetown Mall last weekend.

However, I was most disturbed by the "write-up" accompanying the picture in the Wednesday edition... "modeled early French period costumes". Those little girls

were dressed as a clown and a rabbit! They were there to entertain and give candies to children and say "Bonjour".

I am convinced that the readers of your newspaper know very well what period costumes look like and they don't look like that! It is really too bad that the writer of these comments did not come and ask us questions about our display.

**Lise Gilmor**  
President

PTA Sacré-Coeur

*Editor's note: We apologize for the unintended slight.*

### Got a Beef...? A Comment...?

Halton Hills This Week wants to hear from you.

Drop us a line at Letters to the Editor,  
232 Guelph St., Unit #9, Georgetown L7G 4B1

## Open door immigration policy decried

### To the Editor:

The article in the March 10 Globe & Mail sent shivers down my spine. "Triad menace an iceberg report warns." According to Criminal Intelligence Service Canada, triad members already in the country are involved in drug trafficking, gambling, extortion, prostitution, money laundering, armed robbery, alien smuggling and the counterfeiting of credit cards. Secret Hong Kong criminal societies are known as triads.

We hear a lot of people making excuses for the rising crime rate; unemployment, hard times, etc. I agree, it is a factor but compared to the 1930's (with no unemployment insurance, no health care, inadequate relief) conditions are considerably better for the unemployed. During those years crime was not a major problem.

Why? There was discipline and the strap in schools, even worse, when your parents found out about it. For older people and real crimes, there were real jails and the lash - cruel, maybe, but is the lash any worse than young thugs knocking down old ladies, often breaking bones just to snatch their purses? Think about it for a while - if you are lucky, you may also be old and feeble some day. And then there is the death sentence, rather stern, but it sure stops repeat performances.

When did Canadian society and our crime rate start changing. Open concept schools, do your own thing. Learn nothing. After police work their hearts out catching criminals, judges, under government direction over the years, hand out progressively more lenient sentences until now. Sentences are a joke compared to the crimes committed. The above is one factor but the more serious problem was started by the Liberals in the Trudeau era by bringing in people from all over the world without any controls to criminal background, work skills or even the cultural desire of the people to do a day's work.

Most criminals, except the pawns, are quite intelligent people and Canada's open door policy with the added benefits of free medicine, free housing, regular living allowances, along with a heavy influx of aliens makes Canada an ideal place for criminals to locate.

The fact that criminals as a matter of policy are allowed into the country (even murderers) is unconscionable.

So called "rights" laws have been enacted making the job of the

police extremely difficult.

On the provincial scene, the N.D.P. have for years tried to make the life of the police miserable.

With both federal and provincial politicians continually adding more roadblocks for the police to encounter, it is quite obvious why

we have an ever-increasing crime rate in Ontario.

If you are not happy with this situation, remember who not to vote for in the next federal and provincial elections.

**Rod Pinkney**  
Georgetown

## Political process hijacked

### To the Editor:

On the occasion of the April 1 provincial by-elections, we are witnessing a perfect example of political opportunism.

The scene is the riding of St. George - St. David where a group of homosexual activists has all but hijacked the political process. So much so that the Family Coalition Party candidate, during the last election, was not allowed to speak at the all-candidates debate. This year, even the NDP riding association could not hold a nomination meeting, forcing Premier Bob Rae to appoint a candidate.

Liberal leader Lyn McLeod saw the opportunity. For the sake of a few hundred votes in the by-election,

she announced that she will help push through legislation legally recognizing same-sex relationships (Financial Post, March 11).

The spending of taxpayer's money to support these relationships, as if they could play the same role as traditional families in creating life and developing society, goes against common sense and against the wishes of the majority of the people in Ontario.

After giving in to this group, will Liberal party faithfuls continue giving her their trust and loyalty?

**Giuseppe Gori**  
Family Coalition Party of Ontario,  
Georgetown

## Pull the plug on P.O.W.E.R.

### To the Editor:

As one of the first and most committed supporters of P.O.W.E.R., I have watched with dismay - and more recently, disgust - as an organization founded by decent, sensible people to STOP THE DUMP has been systematically hijacked by self-righteous and sanctimonious interlopers with questionable motives.

The unconscionable levels of arrogance demonstrated by current P.O.W.E.R. heavies Halsall, Barlow and Hilborn over the NEC issue should surely be the final straw for all members of this cult-to-be still capable of independent thought.

Their disgraceful attacks on councillors Bonnette and Johnson on March 8 should have been answered with lawsuits by two of our most dedicated and effective elected representatives.

Other low points of the same meeting included the sheer inanity of part-time protagonist/failed-mayorality-candidate Barlow using his own experience of spending six months immersed in NEC red tape over an eight-foot extension for his house as how well the current system works. This would be laughable if it weren't so pathetically typical of the utter lunacy beneath the thin veneer of credibility which has accrued to the current leadership of P.O.W.E.R.

As for the pinnacle, president Halsall, when confronted with the just-released hearing panel's report (commissioned by the NEC itself) which obliterated each and every premise in P.O.W.E.R.'s position on the issue she said, simply, that the report was "most unfortunate".

I beg to differ; I believe that this report is a most fortunate development - hopefully all fair-minded members of what was once a dignified organization will have finally had enough of the arbitrary fixations and vitriolic antics of the cackling cadre and demand that their names be stricken from the roster.

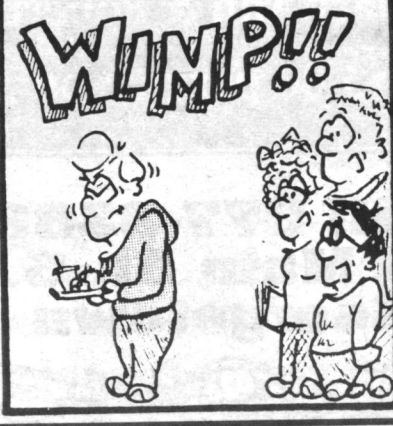
Moreover, citizens at large will hopefully keep their wallets firmly in purse or pocket the next time these political parasites come calling for cash.

As a community we must, of course, continue the fight to STOP THE DUMP. But the days when P.O.W.E.R. had a productive and focused role in this fight - the days when people like the Kirkwoods and Ruth French were leading the charge and lending their integrity to the cause - are long gone.

Sadly, it's time to pull the plug on P.O.W.E.R.

**Steve Dawkins,**  
Acton

## For Pete's Sake



by Roe

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