

# Editorial

## Moms really are special

Sunday is Mother's Day and unless the sycophantic disciples of the 'politically correct' new terminology intervene, we will be able to properly express our love, gratitude and respect to the mothers, grandmothers and even mothers-to-be in our lives.

One is reminded of the story of the young mother who indignantly replied when asked the question, "So, sweetie, who delivered your baby?" - "Let's get one thing straight HONEY. I had a lot to do with conceiving my baby. I carried the little critter for close to nine months and he came out of me at the moment of birth. The doctor just happened to have a good pair of catching hands. I delivered my baby and no son-of-an-OHIP is going to tell me otherwise."

Kids - and we can all qualify on this point - often reminded mom when things got a bit hairy around the house that "It won't be long until Mother's Day and I'm going to get you a nice gift."

Usually, the afore-mentioned was tossed out about the third week in May as the young deranged minds conveniently forgot their survival depended on having mom around 365 days of the year. My mother has been dead for a number of years now, but I don't think many days go by without me thinking of her and her special ways.

For those of you whose mothers and grandmothers are still alive, Sunday should be a special day.

Treat it as such, but also spend some time thinking of all the other days in the year that these ladies made special - if only by their presence.

## A light in the darkness

By Geoffrey Moon  
Chair, Public Relations  
Georgetown and District  
Red Cross

World Red Cross Day, May 8, (today) marks the birthday of Henry Dunant, the founder of the international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

The idea of a day to celebrate international understanding, with an annually changing theme, was established in Czechoslovakia in 1922.

The national Red Cross Society invited citizens to avoid, for a couple of days, anything that might create misunderstanding between people. This appeal became known as the Red Cross Truce. It was observed from the capital, Prague, to the smallest villages. Bells throughout the country announced the start of the Truce, and it was an annual event in Czechoslovakia until 1938.

The Truce, with its underlying sentiment of national and international understanding, aroused interest throughout the Red Cross world. But, it was only after the Second World War that the time became right to celebrate World Red Cross Day on May 8, 1948.

It is an unfortunate irony that the greatest need at this time for a "Red Cross Truce" is in Bosnia-Herzegovina, not far from the very place it began. The Red Cross is hard at work there as well

as in many other locations, wherever there is a need to uphold the Geneva Conventions and bring the light of human dignity into the dark of conflict. As the Secretary-General of the Czechoslovakian Red Cross has said of World Red Cross Day: "The day serves to remind people who already believe in our Red Cross that we are not alone, that the Red Cross is international, and there are friends in other countries who will help us."

In Canada, we are largely free of this kind of conflict, but the Oka affair of not so long ago serves to remind us that humanitarian initiatives can be required anywhere. The Red Cross in Canada strives to remain vigilant, supplying aid to the needy of both sides. The Canadian Red Cross Society is regularly asked to send delegates to administer Red Cross resources and aid programs throughout the world. The Georgetown and District branch of the Red Cross has yet to send a delegate from its ranks, but the time will surely come. Until then, we continue to support international efforts with fund-raising and by publicizing needs.

World Red Cross Day gives us all the opportunity to reflect on the needs of others, in our community and throughout the world, and keep that light in the darkness shining.

## The People's Corner

### Transportation links are essential

To the Editor

I am appalled by the shortsightedness of the provincial NDP in closing existing GO Stations and discontinuing transportation services to a number of communities outside the Metropolitan Toronto area.

While I recognize the need for belt-tightening in these difficult times, this is an outrageous idea for a number of reasons. The most apparent being the large cash outlay which has already been spent in putting these stations into place. In Acton alone, the local newspaper reported that almost \$200,000 had been spent in building the GO Station and the parking facilities surrounding it. No doubt these stations will now sit empty with no cash return on our investment.

What about the people who relo-

cated to these peripheral communities with the GO facilities already operational? Many developers cited this as a major incentive to buy. And imagine what would happen if these people (who presumably could not afford to buy a home in Toronto because of the high cost of real estate) didn't have access to their own car in order to drive to the nearest GO station?

In Acton, no additional bus service is being introduced to take up the slack. And the bus service we have is very limited. What if they could no longer get to their jobs in Toronto because of this cut in service? What about depreciation in the value of those homes that no longer have transportation services?

And last but not least, what about the increase in traffic on already overcrowded highways into Metro every weekday rush hour? Will the existing bus from Georgetown to Guelph be able to accommodate an additional 100 passengers? Will the parking facilities at the Georgetown

GO Station be able to handle the extra vehicles? Has anyone taken time to survey this?

I am truly amazed at this action, especially in a riding like ours where we are represented by an NDP MPP. In a town where GO train service was long sought after and lavishly applauded, does Mr. Duignan sincerely expect that his chances of re-election will not be diminished?

It seems to me the former Liberal government at least understood that transportation links are essential to working people. Would the NDP have been as anxious to do away with GO Service had they been the ones to introduce it?

I am informed by GO staff that rail service to Acton and Guelph will continue only until July 2nd of this year. After that, I will be rejoining other former train riders on the highways in and around Metro Toronto.

Ingrid Peart  
Acton

### Freedom of the press?

To the Editor

Is it my imagination, or do other readers feel the same way I do? It has become apparent in the last few months that there seems to be an unofficial contest between P.O.W.E.R.'s President, Barbara Halsall, and E.A.G.L.E./Family Coalition Party member Giuseppe Gori in who can write the most letters about themselves and, oh yes, their political views.

I sometimes wonder, is this freedom of the press or just a POWER trip.

Bruce Cargill  
Acton

**EDITORS NOTE: You have just described the true meaning of freedom of the press. Your right to question either the newspaper's opinion or the opinion of people who take the time and effort to write a letter to the editor. What's the problem?**

### Cancer Society offers thanks

To the Editor

The Executive of the Georgetown Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society wishes to thank all the special volunteers - the drivers, Area Chairpersons, Area Captains, canvassers and sponsors of special events, who give of their time and talent, and the residents of Georgetown, who, through their generosity, gave us another successful campaign.

Your support is very much appreciated and necessary against the fight against cancer.

Marlene Kelman  
Communications  
Chairperson  
Halton Hills  
(Georgetown Unit)  
Canadian Cancer Society

### Got a beef or a comment?

Send your letters to  
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Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1  
or fax (416) 873-3918

### Political tax deduction shuffle

To the Editor

While doing my personal income tax return I realized that all political parties are skimming off tax revenues from our provincial and federal governments. This is done by how and where political contributions are deducted on the income tax form.

A person who contributes the maximum to a party of their choice at both levels of government would realize a 43.5% tax deduction on \$1,150.00 federally and 44.1% on \$1,700.00 provincially which equals \$1,125.00 tax savings to that individual because it was given to a political party rather than tax revenue to our governments.

With all this tough talk of wage cuts, service cuts and tax increases from Ottawa and Toronto, I certainly haven't heard anything about reducing or changing these figures to increase tax revenues.

This whole set up is socially and morally wrong. If a person chooses to donate the same \$2850.00 to a charitable organization such as the United Appeal, Heart or Cancer Foundations to help some poor soul in this nation, it would only net a \$484.50 non-refundable tax credit.

By giving to a political party \$1,250.00 of payable taxes can be saved. As well, where it is placed on the income tax form it is possible this \$1,250.00 could become a refund which would be paid by other peoples' tax dollars. Therefore, the taxpayer becomes the supporter of all provincial and federal political parties!

If our governments are to become credible and responsible, this political tax credit must be moved from the Summary of Tax and Credits to Non-Refundable Tax Credits where it would become a 17% tax savings equal to your personal, C.P.P., Unemployment, Disability etc., tax credit.

Lets think about the people who structured this system. By sheer implication, they have suggested that their financial needs are more important, so that well-heeled people can attend conventions, conferences, retreats and campaigns.

The tax reduction incentive is almost three times as great to contribute to politics than to charity. "Only in Canada you say. Pity!"

Brian E. Smith  
Brampton

### Let businessmen run country

To the Editor

It never fails to amaze me how much each year the department of finance presents forecasts in the annual budget that show the federal deficit starting to drop almost immediately when, in fact, each year the deficit has drastically increased.

If these so-called "professional economists" are just "fudging the books" for their employers, they should be handled like any other chartered accounting firm and be sued for breach of trust. On the other hand, if they are so completely incompetent as to believe their work was accurate they should be fired the same as anyone in industry.

There is no more reason for

incompetence or dishonesty to be tolerated in the civil services, at any level, than in private enterprise.

Professional people should not compromise the facts to serve their political masters, nor should incompetent people be given jobs for racial reasons.

There are a lot of things in government that are much worse than our most inefficient private company a few years ago. Those companies that are still in business are continuing to slash costs and weed out the deadwood.

What the country needs now is a fresh team of hatchet men from business to straighten out our government operations.

Rod Pinkney,  
Georgetown

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