

THE HALTON COMPASS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Thanks to the Compass for your very generous coverage of Independent Living Halton's Charity Yard Sale (Sept. 17, 2004 issue).

Since 1995, the Opsteen family have not only opened their home to the public on sale weekends, but spend a good deal of time, year-round, soliciting and organizing for the Sale. Enough can't be said about the continued support of dedicated volunteers such as the Opsteens and their neighbours, the Eirichs, year after year. Their work has raised over \$18,800 - all given directly to support independent living for adults with physical disabilities in Halton. In addition to our valued volunteers and shoppers, we are also grateful for the support of our community including this appreciated coverage by your paper.

I invite anyone interested in becoming involved in Independent Halton to call me at 905-875-2679, or drop us an email at ilh@cogeco.net. Thanks, everyone, for another great Yard Sale Season!

Maria Sewell

President • Independent Living Halton

Dear Editor,

Your page 5 column "Places to Grow, people to see" (Sep 17) brings to mind one of our federal government's favourite and hackneyed propaganda lines: — Canada needs more immigrants.

Do people not wonder why we are no longer exhorted to live better electrically? Or why the McGuinty government periodically asks Ontarians to turn off their central air conditioning? Or why the weather reports so often include smog alerts? Last summer while I was sitting in a friend's backyard in Port Dover, his wife swiped at the dust and granules settling on their patio table and said, "That's from Nanticoke" (the nearby coal-fired generating plant).

A few years ago I heard a radio announcer mention that from the top of the CN Tower on a clear day, one can see 40 per cent of Canada's Class B farmland and 25 per cent of her Class A farmland. Yet we are busily paving over paradise to accommodate our federal government's social engineering agenda.

Not enough money for health care, a pittance for the Canadian Armed Forces, and nothing for our crumbling infrastructure. A provincial government screaming blue murder over exorbitant 407 Electronic Toll Route tolls while it is preoccupied with planning to build more toll highways, so that they too can be sold to the private sector to partially offset some future deficit.

Thirty years ago, Switzerland's population was 6.3 million; today it is about 7.2 million. It is very difficult to immigrate to Switzerland. If we were to believe what we are told by the feds, we would have to assume that Switzerland has long since gone to hell in the proverbial hand basket due to a lack of immigrants to populate and pave over their beautiful green valleys where only the sounds of cowbells break the idyllic silence.

And while we are on the topic of social engineering, how long will it be before we are forced to finance construction of French schools in Milton? Only a few years ago I read that a French high school had opened in Burlington to accommodate a total of 27 students.

Ron Bezant
Milton

EDITORIAL

Next week a friend will sit her citizenship exam. Being an immigrant myself, I remember that day well. Anxious weeks of cramming facts on all aspects of Canada, followed by relief at actually knowing what was required.

A buddy, born in the Sault, half-jokingly told me that one could always tell which were the immigrants at a hockey game — they are the ones singing who actually know all the words to the national anthem. Certainly we immigrants are the most enthusiastic singers.

A popular misconception is that immigrants into Canada fit the Statue of Liberty description of "tired", "poor", "huddled masses", "the wretched refuse of a teeming shore". Nothing could be further from the truth. Canada has stringent standards that applicants must meet, measured by a system that awards points based on health, education level, job skills, and language ability. In my own case, I was hired from the UK to work on Bay Street, but only after the job I was offered had been advertised across Canada for three months and no other suitable applicants could be found within the country.

Like the USA we are a nation built by immigrants, but unlike the USA we do not have Irish-Americans, or Italian-Americans or anything hyphenated at all. We just have Canadians.

Dear Editor,

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Halton Region Branch, is a non-profit charitable organization that serves individuals with mental illness and mental health issues. Its programs include public education, social recreation, one to one leisure support, and information and referral. With a focus on recovery, we seek to improve the quality of life for users of the mental health system by providing them with opportunities to engage in activities of their choice, as inexpensively as possible.

Many of our participants are on a limited income, relying on the Ontario Disability Support Program or the Canada Pension Plan; this leaves little money, if any, for a person to participate in recreation activities. We often look to the community for donations and gifts to help us provide our services.

The CMHA would like to publicly thank the following organizations for their contributions to our recent camping event: The Altruists of Oakville, The Knights of Columbus, Oakville, Brian's Food Basics, Georgetown, A & P, Georgetown, Giant Tiger, Acton, Fortinos, 511 New Street in Burlington, Fortinos, 2025 Guelph Line in Burlington, Comisso's, 3505 Upper Middle Road in Burlington, Sobeys, 125 Brant Street in Burlington

One of our participants recently expressed how grateful he was to "get away from city life" and attend this event. He described the camping trip as a place "to be with people who understand" mental illness and mental health issues. "It was nice to be around survivors!" he stated. "Many people are too ill to take part in a trip like this so it was really great to be around people who are fighters and coping with their illness."

Thank you to our donors for supporting the Halton Community and for making our annual camping event an excellent one!

CMHA Halton Staff: Dana Bessette, Trish Purshouse,
Megan Wright, Minerva Sanchez Rudman, Erin Sherriff

To the Editor,

A big thank you to all whom ran the 19th Terry Fox Run in Rockwood on September 19. I'm happy to announce we raised roughly \$4500.00 for cancer research this year. This puts our overall total at our site over \$45000.00 in 19 years. Next year is our 20th anniversary and 25th overall. Last Sunday 16 participants raised \$4500.00. Next year I would love to see both numbers increase to celebrate 20 years of the run in Rockwood. A special thank you to the media who came to the start (Rockwood P.S.) — Magic106.1, CJOY1460 and The Wellington Advertiser — for helping me and the other area organizers get the word out about our events.

Steve Thomson
Rockwood Terry Fox Run Organizer

LITTORAL VIEW by: Jeffrey Mueller

