

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor

From the earliest of recorded history, societies have evolved to recognize and deem those patterns of behaviour that are beneficial to the whole as worthy of special recognition and encouragement. The recognition and reward of such behaviour is afforded only to those who choose to engage in such actions and not a right to be claimed by those not following the code. The purpose of the reward is to encourage this behaviour and pointless if fails to do so.

One such pattern to be so recognized is the union of one man and one woman commonly known as marriage. The benefits to society are many, including a stable, nurturing and balanced child rearing environment, a continuance of the population, and ultimately the setting of an example to be copied.

Same-sex unions offer no such benefits, and in this debate even its proponents do not attempt to justify it on those grounds. An argument can be made that in fact, such unions are detrimental to society. No procreation can take place. Should the pair adopt, that child would be at a disadvantage in an unbalanced environment. Examples would be set to be copied.

The arguments put forth by those in favour of same-sex unions is one of equality and rights. This is misguided.

How can a reward for an action be claimed as a right without the action?

While individuals in a free society may partner with other individuals there is no obligation on society to reward or recognize all types of behaviour.

Co-habitation occurs in many situations that may be of some benefit to those involved, but of no benefit to society at large. This would be the case with two elderly sisters sharing common quarters. If marriage is redefined to include any two individuals then it will cease to have meaning and be an administrative event to be used to one's best advantage such as estate planning or tax purposes. It will cease to encourage beneficial behaviour.

Indeed many older persons have their pets as companions and often treat them as their children (pet school, pet spas, pet cemetery) yet clearly it would be of no benefit to society to elevate pets to the status of children. Claims by these same pet owners that their rights are being violated may sound impressive, but would change nothing.

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms was an attempt to put in written form that which was in practice but unwritten. It was never intended to create a free-for all in society. It certainly was not intended to be used as a shield against detrimental behaviour. And yet our courts are unwittingly and increasingly allowing this to happen. What was considered unthinkable is now at risk before the judiciary. A pattern is emerging where our most cherished and fundamental values are systematically being undermined at the whim of a judge. What is unimaginable today may be the reality of tomorrow.

Consider that as recently as 1999 when parliament overwhelmingly passed a motion to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman this debate would have been viewed as preposterous. What has happened since? Have we become so enlightened in four short years that we can afford to discard thousands of years of collective wisdom?

And what will be next? What evidence is there that this runaway train will stop here?

This past week Paul Martin stated that there is no danger that redefining marriage could lead to polygamy. Based on recent events, his assertion rings hollow.

As citizens of Canada we must all take responsibility for the actions of our elected officials. We will be held accountable and will bear the consequences of their actions.

Les S. Sinka, Erin

To The Editor:

The arrival on March 1st of former New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna as Canada's Ambassador at Washington marks the first time in our nation's history that a Canadian diplomat will present his credentials to a US President not in the name of The Queen, our head of state, but in that of the Governor General.

Many readers will be shocked to learn that in a "stealth" press release dated December 29, 2004, the Prime Minister revealed that The Queen had been stripped from Canadian Letters of Credence and Recall, the formal documents by which nations exchange diplomatic representatives, and that these would hereafter be issued in the name of the Governor General alone.

This unprecedented step was taken without any public consultation or Parliamentary discussion.

It is no disrespect to our Governor General to ask why: why is the government trying to hide from other countries the fact that Her Majesty is our Head of State? Why would a government wish to suggest, contrary to our Constitution, that the Governor General is the Head of State? Is the government, which effectively nominates, budgets and advises the Governor General, trying to replace our constitutional monarchy through an end run around the process of law?

These and other troubling implications of this matter are more fully discussed in a Position Paper which we would happily supply gratis on request. Readers can leave their name and address toll-free at (800) 465-6925, email me at john.aimers@sympatico.ca or write PO Box 1057, Oakville, ON L6J 5E9. We hope many Canadians will alert their fellow citizens and let the Prime Minister and their own MP know how they feel about this peculiar and wrong-headed insult to our Queen.

Yours sincerely,

John Aimers, Dominion Chairman  
The Monarchist League of Canada  
www.monarchist.ca

## Milton Council opt for transparency

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cil, both with issues surrounding the draft report defining the guiding principles for public consultation, a report that arose from a council meeting held last March.

Bob Beyette, in his presentation to council, noted that although town staff had been instructed to "work with" residents to develop the principles, there were no opportunities to come to the table with the town and build on ideas and recommended an action team be developed.

"To involve citizens in the decision

making process is key to effective democracy, yet... we have avoided the opportunity to harness the power and synergistic input of Milton citizens," said Beyette.

Harding suggested the addition of transparency to the guidelines and also suggested a review be conducted in a year's time and that interested parties be invited to discuss the evaluation.

Challinor suggested that concerns about the principles could not be particularly widespread, since so few residents had approached council on the matter, a statement that Jan Mowbray, councillor, Ward 3 considered unfair.

## Michael Chong critical of budget

Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong was critical of last week's Federal Budget. Michael listened to Ralph Goodale's budget speech hoping for additional help for farmers, but none was forthcoming, and he said, "I'm disappointed that in a time where many of our producers are facing dire straits that we didn't see any more income support for farmers. Chong welcomed the new money outlined in the budget for the environment. However, he criticized the government's environmental plan. "The government's plan is full of hot air: they still have no plan to implement Kyoto, even though the Kyoto targets became the law of the land on February 16th. They are planning to spend billions of Canadians' money without having any idea

how this will allow us to meet our Kyoto targets. This is risky and foolish public policy. And none of the government's plans address the real problem we have: suffocating summer smog." He reserved his harshest comments for the government's childcare plan. He said, "Their childcare plan doesn't exist, as the provinces are balking at joining a federal program. Even if the provinces eventually agree to what they propose, subsidized daycare spaces will only be increased from about 7% to 10% of all spaces. That is not a universal childcare program. I believe that a tax credit given to parents for every child under the age of 17 is the best way to go. That will allow parents to best decide how they spend this money, whether that be on daycare, education, food or clothing."

## Gary Carr open house

M.P. Gary Carr will meet the public at an open meeting to be hosted by the Milton Rural Residents Association on March 14 at Nassagaweya Hall in Brookville starting at

7.30 pm.

Gary will be addressing rural issues and responding to questions from the public.

## EDITORIAL

Queen's Park has had quite a week. On Monday they slid through the Greenbelt legislation ten days ahead of the date that everyone expected, always a cute move. Then, on Tuesday they passed "breed specific" legislation banning pit bulls throughout Ontario.

The first piece of legislation annoys me as a farmer, but it's really legislation that has more style than actual content. Sure it will make it more difficult for farmers to use their land to secure their operating farm loans, but essentially the Greenbelt changes nothing. It's political tub-thumping, that's all. Greenbelt or no there is no mechanism that allows development in Halton except that laid down in concrete within the HUSP plan. It's the second piece of legislation that worries me.

My wife and I breed dogs; Golden Retrievers to be exact. Now, you may say that a Golden and a Pit Bull are miles apart, especially in temperament, and that would be true as a generality. But deep down, a dog is a dog. There will always be a corner of their hearts that will never be totally tamed. Golden Retrievers are the sweetest dogs on earth, but males are still 85 lbs and more of muscle with jaws that can make matchwood out of 2 by 4s. In the armament department they make Pit Bulls look pretty puny.

So why has McGuinty and company chosen to ban Pit Bulls? Why have they decreed that all existing Pit Bulls must be neutered, so that the breed is extinguished? Why? For the same cold reason that politicians do anything, because they think it will help get them re-elected. Their recipe is simple, find a knee-jerk cause with a simple tag line. Evocative words like 'moraine', 'Greenbelt' and 'Pit Bull' are the best. Words that Joe Public can't argue against and still be seen as a 'decent person'.

Don't get me wrong, some Pit Bulls should get put-down. Dogs that are aggressive and a danger to people and other dogs have no place in our society. But we don't put down all white males 20-40 who live alone simply because that is the demographic that produces North America's serial killers. In the same vein we shouldn't brand all members of a breed as vicious and sentence them to extinction. Breed specific legislation is wrong, and forms a dangerous precedent.

Ask the Gypsies and the Jews how they feel about breed specific legislation.

## THE HALTON COMPASS

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