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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letter to Paul Scherer, Chair, Canada Day Committee, Milton, was sent to the Compass to be printed.

Dear Paul

I am writing to express my family's appreciation for excellence of Milton's Canada Day celebrations. We also wish to thank the local service clubs, community volunteers, performers, and army cadets who contributed their effort and enthusiasm to make it such a great day.

We were especially impressed with the consideration and respect shown to the veterans who took part in the breakfast and the ceremony at the cenotaph. Providing golf carts driven by army cadets to those who can no longer keep up with the pace set by their peers was very thoughtful. As was naming veterans individually and giving a brief description of the particular experiences of two of them.

The day ended with spectacular fire-

works as usual. It was wonderful to see the crowd and the Canadian flag lit up by the brilliant flashes of light but the best moment came as we were about to depart. 'O Canada' was played and behind us a young girl began singing along, then people around her stopped and joined in. At the end, she proudly proclaimed, "Mom, I sang 'O Canada' in English and French" and bounced off with her family. It was a delightful display of youthful enthusiasm for her country.

It is through events like Canada Day bringing together Miltonians new and old, of all ages and backgrounds that a sense of community is expressed and fostered and it is through committed volunteers that these events take place. Congratulations to the 2005 Canada Day Planning Committee and everyone involved!

Yours sincerely

Wendy Schau, Town Councillor, Ward 4

Letter to the editor

Sorry Mr. Carr, you had a chance to make a difference

With the passing of Bill C-38 yesterday our MP Mr. Carr fulfilled his promise to vote against the government's bill. Unfortunately it was an empty gesture as was Mr. Comuzzi's resignation from Cabinet over this issue.

Mr. Carr and the rest of the 32 Liberal MP's that voted against the same sex marriage bill could have ensured that the issue had a full hearing and consultation with the voters during a general election but they

chose to vote with the government on matters of confidence. If they were serious about defeating this bill then they had their chance. The only way to ensure this issue does not lead to government interference in the churches is to elect a party that will ensure religious freedoms and will repeal Bill C-38.

Sorry Mr. Carr you had a chance to represent your constituents now it's time for a Harper Government to take over and show some true leadership.

Brent Colbert
Oakville

Dear Editor

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make our 25th anniversary strawberry fair at the Fairgrounds on June 25, such a tremendous success.

Thanks to all the people and their families who came out and supported us; to all the businesses, service clubs, hospital staff

and all auxiliary members who helped to make this day the success it was.

I would also like to thank and welcome all the new residents of Milton who came out and supported this worthy cause. All monies made at this event are used to purchase needed equipment for our auxiliary.

Jean Kado, President
Milton District Hospital Auxiliary

To the Editor

Re: Health-Care-Ruling

The Supreme Court Ruling on accessibility to health care is interesting but unfortunately it does not address the real issue. Why can the publicly funded system not keep up with the demand?

Is the demand inflated with unnecessary tests? Or is the system too small for the client base? Why do MRI machines sit idle overnight instead of another shift? Why are hospital beds closed when people are waiting?

These are the fundamental questions that need to be answered. To date the governmental and medical experts have failed to provide real answers to the average Canadians that are not clouded by their own agendas.

Maybe what this ruling will do is signal to the 'experts' that they have not come close to fixing the system yet and if they don't

start, real people will. The courts just opened a door so the real focus can be on the patient, not the medical system, not the government policies.

I suspect it is time to step back and look at the system as a whole and how it is funded. The model that has been in place since the 60's may not be the correct one for these times. A funding model that allows for more flexibility is needed. For example one that allows for the number of beds open in a given hospital to expand or contract with need without the high overhead of unoccupied beds. This requires a major change on how hospitals and the whole medical system operates, from ground up. Every assumption, every current method needs to be questioned. Nothing can be taken as a given in the redesign other than 'the patient comes first!'

Mel Walker, Milton

EDITORIAL

In the late 1980's I attended a cocktail party thrown to honour Pierre Trudeau. I had known that he was unwell at that time, but was staggered to see just how frail he was at 70, when he had seemed indestructible for decades. He was physically unable to prop up the bar with the rest of the boys, and had to be helped to an armchair from which he held court.

One bright spark asked the question that everyone was itching to ask but lacked the courage (or rudeness) to put into words. "Why are most politicians such blockheads?" he asked. I thought Trudeau would blow a gasket, but he just smiled quietly. After a moment he asked the room that if anyone would like to be Minister of Finance would they please raise their hands. After some giggling, half a dozen hands were raised. Trudeau beamed and continued, "Keep your hand up if you still want the job and by the way the salary is..."

Everyone looked shocked at what was probably half the annual take-home pay of the lowest paid person in the room, and no hands remained up. Trudeau just raised an eyebrow in a "did that answer your question" look. His point was pretty clear to me.

The gulf between Bay St and government salaries has always played a part in our having the government we deserve, and I freely admit to a grudging admiration for those in the public field, elected and permanent, who labour for not a heck of a lot of remuneration.

You may have noticed that the Compass does not join in the annual sport of employee baiting when the lists of the highest paid government employees come out. It's not that we don't enjoy making civil servants squeal; it's just that in this case it seems pointless. Take our Regional CAO, Brent Marshall, as an example. Brent earns a salary that is probably a third of what he would get on Bay Street for a comparable position. Why other media guys ooh and aah at his take-home pay is beyond me.

Which brings me to this week's ooh and aah. Dusty Papke, who until a month ago was the Director of Education at the Halton District School Board, was given a severance package equal to between two and three years worth of salary. Given that Dusty is fifty-four and not assured of a similar level job in the near future, it's not a heck of a deal for him but certainly no less than he deserves. Doesn't take too many lean years to munch one's way through any severance package.

Another group that does not get the remuneration they deserve, are Canadian athletes. For those of us who cheered our lungs out at the performance of the gold medal winning women's hockey team at the last Olympics, it may come as a surprise to find that not all the team will get adequate funding for the 2006 Olympics. Take goalie Sami Jo Small. She will go to Turino in 2006, but this time as the number three goalie, not because she is not playing at the top of her game but because it is human nature for coaches to prefer to rely on younger players. Unfortunately this makes Sami Jo twenty-first on the players' list and full funding is only given to the first twenty players. Sami Jo is left trying to train while worrying about how to pay the grocery bills. In a modest way the Compass has committed to help top up her funding from now until after the Olympics so that she can concentrate on the job in hand. Sami Jo will be sending us bulletins every couple of weeks so that we can experience with her what it takes to be an Olympian. I was exhausted just reading this week's installment. I know this time there won't be a dry eye in our house when the final puck is dropped in Turino. Win or lose, we'll be proud of every one of them. I know I'll be blubbing like a hockey-dad.

To the editor

U.S. Honours Canadian soldiers

On May 5 of this year, the American government announced the awarding of the Combat Infantry Badge to Canadian soldiers who were in combat as members of the First Special Service Force (Devil's Brigade) during World War Two.

Any Canadian member or kin of a member who qualifies should apply for the medal by contacting Charles W. Mann (4-3), 850 Huron Terrace, Kincardine, Ont., N2Z 2Y1 or call 1-519-396-2774.

Charles Mann
Kincardine, Ontario

To the Editor

This summer's Annual Garage Sale for Independent Living Halton was a resounding success, and we thank our hosts, Christine and Cory Opsteen for their continuing support of independent living for people with physical disabilities in Halton.

The Opsteens' Sale has now raised \$21,950 for Independent Living Halton - a reflection of the many years of their hard work and generosity, and that of their many friends, family and neighbours who contributed their time and effort to another successful sale, all proceeds of which are generously donated to us.

There are a few others I'd like to thank for much-appreciated support: the shopping community for their contribution and Mayor Gord Krantz for his personal interest in us.

Lastly I'd like to thank the Halton Compass, for your kind support of us, especially the attractive feature of the Sale in your paper. It was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Maria Sewell
President, Independent Living Halton

THE HALTON COMPASS
welcomes letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are welcomed. However, we do not necessarily support or endorse the comments or opinions expressed by the writer(s). We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and telephone number of the writer should be included. Letters may be sent into 35 Crawford Crescent Box 129, Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0, emailed to editor@haltoncompass.com or faxed to 905-854-4761.

THE HALTON COMPASS

Published by
MRK Communications Ltd.

35 Crawford Cres., Box 129,
Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0
PHONE: 905-854-3333

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CLASSIFIEDS: 905-854-3333
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Publisher and Editor: Stephen Baker
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Production Manager: Karen Coleman
Advertising Manager: Louise Cook
Designer: Nina Gunby

Assignment Editor/Journalist: Donna Danielli
Columnists: Jeff Lumby, Sami Jo Small
Journalists: Jennifer Enright, Laura Cook,
Ann Kornuta, Jerry Ford, Bernadette Ward
Sales Representative: Elaine Thomas
Real Estate: Matthew Seguin
Distribution & Circulation: Echo Distribution

The Halton Compass is published weekly on Friday. Copy and advertising deadline is Friday at 5pm prior to publication. All editorial and advertising content is copyrighted and the sole property of MRK Communications Ltd. The Halton Compass is distributed to homes and businesses throughout the rural and urban communities of Halton, encompassing Acton, Erin, Georgetown, Kilbride, Milton, Rockwood, rural Oakville & Burlington and surrounding areas.

Circulation: 50,536 Homes,
Businesses and Subscribers

Compass Subscriptions: 52 issues per year:
\$104.00 plus GST
Cheques payable to:
The Halton Compass
35 Crawford Cres., Box 129,
Campbellville, ON, L0P 1B0
EMAIL: info@haltoncompass.com