

## Halton District Women's Institute celebrate 100 in May

Halton District Women's Institute will be celebrating 100 years of community involvement Sat. May 5, 2001 at 2 p.m.

Women's Institutes all over Halton will be meeting at the Country Heritage Park in Milton (Old Farm Museum) for an afternoon of reflection and celebration. Many activities are planned including a sit down meal and complimentary china mug. They will also be honouring past presidents and secretaries.

Many changes have occurred in a century of W.I.

work, but the focus of Home and Country is still in the forefront. Quietly every day Women's Institute members go about the business of making their communities and lives more productive and enjoyable through meetings, workshops, conferences and participating in outings.

Halton W.I. would love to have all past and present W.I. members join in on the festivities. Please call Gwen Brander at 905-877-1505 or Maisie Lasby at 519-856-4436 before March 31 to ensure a ticket.

## And the saga continues...

To the editor,

To Dave Dawkins: Before you begin calling people "comrade" and lumping yourself in with the "silent majority" (Feb. 1/01), since when did just over 40% of the popular vote constitute a majority?

Also, if you want to talk about an "absolutely irresponsible approach to public spending," how does the fact that, as of 1999, Harris *et al* have managed to increase the provincial debt by 13 billion dollars from \$101 billion in 1996, grab you?

If you don't want a democracy "by the people and for the people" or "run by the inmates" as you put it, then you should be very happy with the dictatorship that our government is fast becoming. Who is it being run by, and just as importantly, for?

To Reverend Robert Matton: Right on! It seems that in many regards ours is a society that is becoming more and more uncivil, uncaring and unchristian.

Peter Kauss



## Rich have it even better

To the editor,

In reply to Mr. E. Hutcheson, there's little doubt where your political bias lies. Let me begin by suggesting caution in your attempt to quote the Bible back to me - to be charitable, there's more to understanding the message than citing 'chapter-and-verse.'

Frankly and yet humbly speaking, I can indeed understand how you might confuse my condemnation of the 'sin' as somehow representing a personal attack upon Mr. Dawkins. If that is how you interpreted my critique of neo-conservative values, I am truly sorry.

I have no particular axe to grind with Mr. Dawkins or anyone else solely on account of their economic standing or political affiliation, nor would I suggest that any ideology has a monopoly in regard to goodness and compassion. Yet at the same time I am utterly astounded by your blindness to Mr. Dawkins' transparent attack

on Mr. Hansen; if on re-reading his letters you can't see his invective (and your own) for what it is, you are indeed in serious denial.

You might well conclude "the poor in this country have it pretty good." Yet I would contend that the rich in this country have it even better. For some undoubtedly, if you set your standards low enough, it is easy to rationalize the declining fortunes of Ontario and indeed Canada's poor. However, I am most troubled that the gap between the rich and poor in Canada has been growing steadily over the past decade, that for the great majority of Canadians real incomes have been shrinking, and that child poverty has skyrocketed in the years since the federal government promised to eradicate this serious problem. If you are indeed among those who are frustrated with "the unreasonable and never-ending demands and complaints of a minority which seems to believe society owes them a

living," I would like you to know that I agree - well sort of. I am tired of hearing the whining of 'poor, little rich boys' whose demands for tax cuts are unending and of 'corporate welfare bums' looking for government handouts in support of so-called free enterprise.

It is as a result of my personal journey as well as my ministry that I have come to embrace ideals and beliefs that, while disdained by Mr. Hutcheson as "representing socialist ideology, from my perspective represent the core values of the Judeo-Christian tradition. If indeed he would so cleverly contend that on his account I have "no brain," I can but respond that such a condition is far preferable to being described as having 'rigor mortis' of the heart. As a matter of faith and conscience deep within my heart and soul, being socially responsible is really a *no-brainer!*

Peace and blessings,  
The Rev. Robert Matton

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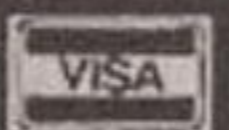
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To the editor,

Re: Rural routes mail delivery needs improvement letters of Feb. 22 and Mar. 1

We, too, have experienced difficulties with the mail service in R.R.#2 Acton. The decline in service over the past

two years prompted us to write letters to both the Canada Postal Supervisor in Georgetown, and Christine Marshall, Supervisor of the Bower Street Postal Office in Acton asking what steps and measures will be taken to correct this matter. To date we have not received a reply. And to date, the service has further declined.

Like many of our neighbours, some days we receive no mail at all (usually consistent with a Monday or Friday). Much of our mail has been 'lost'. Most of our mail is intended for someone else. Most of the mail received for others has been correctly addressed, but simply not delivered to the correct residence. We faithfully return these items back to the mail system with a notation on the front of the envelope indicating it is not for our line. Others may not be so diligent, and this may account for much of our 'lost' mail.

With reference to L. Pyke's letter of March 1, and specifically her comment on not receiving a 'test letter,' she may find it interesting to learn that we have not received one either, nor have any of our neigh-

bours. We can, however, offer an exact time-frame of one article of mail, post January 24, 2001, in Windsor, that was delivered to us February 19, 2001. Twenty-six days in the mail until delivered. This of course, resulted in many apologies from the sender, and further time and effort taken by them to correct this matter, not to mention their embarrassment. The replacement mail was picked up at their office at 4:30 p.m. by Purolator, and delivered to us the next day by 11:00 a.m.

The aforementioned difficulties were never encountered in all the years Pete Debeau delivered the mail. However, Canada Post, in their infinite wisdom, decided that contracting to less expensive conglomerate, who in turn subcontract the routes out for even less, was the better way to go. Which simply proves the old adage that you get what you pay for.

As no response to the area resident's letters and complaints to Canada Post appear to be forthcoming, I can only suggest we address this problem through our local M.P.

Sincerely,  
S.D. Smith

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