



Crime Stoppers tourney

Rob Park, senior vice-president of underwriting for Pilot Insurance, was one of the many who teed off at the Crimestoppers Golf Tournament, organized by the Precept Group, recently at Eagle Ridge Golf Course. Joining Park were (from left) Precept CEO Jim McGregor, Scott Campbell, vice-president underwriting for Pilot Insurance, and tournament organizer R. J. Farnworth, vice-president of sale for the Precept Group.

Photo by Ted Brown

Region wants province to honour blackout pledge

Regional politicians are demanding the provincial government follow through with the promise it made previously and provide compensation to municipalities for the expenses incurred to deal with the August 14 power blackout and the subsequent hydro shortage.

After a regional committee meeting in which politicians discussed the power crisis, Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle said, "I think it's a commitment they (the government) made and a commitment they should stand by, election or no election."

Halton spent \$750,000 to deal with the power crisis, but was lucky to be spared the big financial hit that has plagued other municipalities. The City of Hamilton says the blackout cost them in excess of \$2 million.

On August 27 outgoing Ontario Premier Ernie Eves announced a plan to compensate municipalities for costs incurred due to North America's worst-ever energy blackout. But six days later, he called an election.

Regional politicians and staff simply don't know how the election will impact the compensation announcement. A bill will be sent to the province.

Also, the government didn't lay out specifics of how the claims system will work and that has some worried.

"We've had a long experience of knowing that the devil is in the details," said Halton Chair Joyce Savoline.

—By Jason Misner, special

Letters to the editor

Readers speak out on same-sex marriage

Dear editor,

Over the past few weeks I have read with interest the letters to the editor on the topic of same-sex marriages. However, Steve Winter's letter in the Sept 26 issue (Standards 'compromised') was not a good argument, but simply a mean-spirited piece. I was ashamed someone in my community could write such a thing.

By referring to homosexuals who wish to marry (and their supporters) as "reprobates" and a "well-organized minority of subversives condoning their immoral lifestyle," Winter demonstrates that he still has the old mindset that homosexuals are not born that way, but are depraved individuals who turned homosexual due to some harmful influence. Here's a newsflash Mr. Winter: homosexuals are born, not created! In fact, the God you worship created them that way, and She loves them as much as She loves you.

Realistically, what right do any heterosexuals have to oppose same-sex marriages when it doesn't even pertain to them?

Our MP, Julian Reed, has commented that he has received hundreds of calls opposing the motion, but only a few calls in favour. Therefore he feels that, as only a very small percentage support the motion, he is doing a good job of representing his constituents when he opposes it. However, I believe that Mr. Reed is turning a blind eye to a very simple fact. Supporters, such as myself, are happy the Liberal party is taking this long-overdue step and have no reason (or time) to contact their MP.

Therefore, if you are a supporter, I implore you to take a minute to let our MP know that the supporters make up a large portion of the constituency. Julian Reed can be contacted at: phone: 905-875-3393, fax: 905-875-1060 or reedj@cogeco.ca.

Lesley Grice, Georgetown

Dear editor,

I am writing this letter to respond to the ignorant letters in the September 26 paper. I am not gay, I don't know any gay people, and truly I don't care if gays get married or not.

What I do know, is that whether the government allows same-sex marriages or not, that it will not affect my life at all. I do not feel

THE MAJORITY has a right to decide if gays can get married or not. I do not feel that I have a right to decide who can fall in love and who cannot.

Even if THE MAJORITY feels same-sex marriages are immoral, does that give THE MAJORITY the right to decide if they can marry or not? Absolutely not.

If any person in THE MAJORITY can explain how same-sex marriages are going to physically hurt THE MAJORITY, cost THE MAJORITY money or make the world an unsuitable place to live, then please let me know. If you cannot then I say get over it.

C. Brown, Georgetown

Dear editor,

Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh tells us "Marriage is an ancient rite." So is worshipping the sun. Halton MP Julian Reed tells us "marriage is as old as civilization". So is the practice of keeping household slaves.

It seems both of our representatives are sadly out of touch with today's realities. Here's an update gentlemen: Women now have a vote, but neither of you have mine!

Pat Farley, Georgetown

Dear editor,

I am confused about all this controversy which surrounds homosexual marriages.

Several religious and political figures state that it goes against the holy union of a man and a woman. However, isn't Canada a multi-cultural country which celebrates various religions and ethnic diversities? Whether you are religious or not, you still have a right to marry.

Marriage, which was once only for those who wished to be united under the eyes of God, is now simply for a piece of paper, a government tax break, and a showcase before friends and family. Too many couples don't take their marriage vows seriously since the introduction of divorce. We are so busy pointing fingers at each other and saying that "that lifestyle is sinful," we lose focus on what's really important—two people, regardless of sexual preference, want to have the same rights as all of the other religious and non-religious Canadians.

Lynn Walters, Georgetown

Dear editor,

In a world of persecution and bit-

ter wars there is one country—Canada—where people from about 200 countries and many religions and races are peacefully living together.

What would Jesus, this brave and tolerant Jew, say to the present controversy about the so-called same-sex marriage?

All his teachings encourage us to accept people's differences gracefully and with respect. He tells us to resist authorities, who are overreaching their mandate, and to resist them peacefully. He was killed for that because the officials of powerful organizations fear nothing more than a population which thinks for itself.

Take the churches—Catholic and Protestant. For hundreds of years their officials persecuted the Jews, homosexuals, so-called witches, and each other. In particular, the Jews were pictured as the greatest villains of all time, the very people Jesus belonged to.

Should we now listen to them in this matter?

For the sake of peace in this beautiful country, I personally believe we should not.

John Sommer, Georgetown

Dear editor,

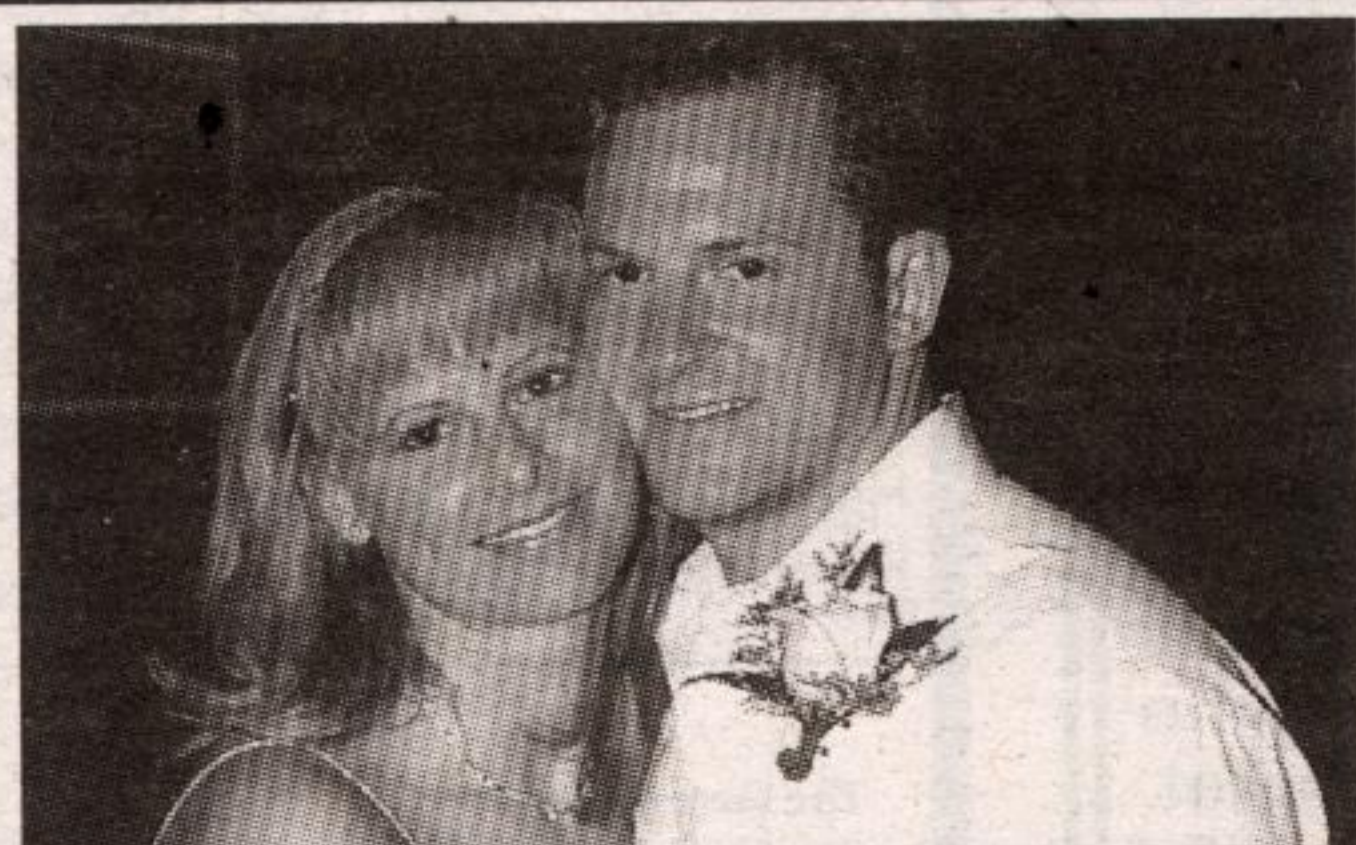
As a professor of humanities and social science, and a Catholic, I am appalled at the response to same-sex marriages. We are supposed to be learning from past mistakes rather than continue to make them.

Canada has a long history of discrimination, racism, and exploitation, which has often been supported by religious doctrine. During the era of colonization people were classified according to a hierarchy that defined people according to skin colour. White was the closest to God and those with darker skin were defined as less-than-human. In fact, during the 1700 and 1800s it was fashionable for government and church officials to own black slaves in Canada.

As for natives, they were prohibited from engaging in their culture because the missionaries saw it as pagan.

Let's not be the authors of another sad chapter in Canadian history. Instead, let's approach this issue with an exemplary understanding of diversity.

Daniel S. Popowich, Georgetown



Francis and Marie St. Pierre of Georgetown are delighted to announce the engagement of their son, François to Bethany Duimstra, daughter of Jack and Bonnie Duimstra, formerly of Milton, ON. The wedding will take place October 9th, 2004 at Eglise Sacré Coeur, Georgetown. Congratulations & Félicitations

**HAPPY
1ST
BIRTHDAY
EMILY**

Love
Mommy, Daddy
& Megan



**Congratulations
Kristina**
on your
graduation from
Wilfred Laurier
University with a
degree in
Communication
Studies.

We're so proud of you!
Love Mom, Dad, Alanna,
Michael & Silken



Kristina Zelek