

Editorial

Olympic game\$

Canadians didn't get a chance to celebrate a gold medal win in the women's 100 metres hurdles, our rowers came up short in the men's eights and our swimmers were all wet in the pool.

However, we're good as gold when it comes to national hand-wringing, Monday morning quarterbacking and whining.

When the flame was finally extinguished Sunday on the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Canada finished with 12 medals—19th among the 202 competing countries. That total was comparable to the 14 won in Sydney (2000), the 10 in Seoul (1988) and 11 in Montreal (1976). In was, however, a drop off from the 22 won in Atlanta in 1996 and the 18 collected in Barcelona in 1992.

Since the Montreal Games (discounting the boycott-plagued 1980 and 1984 Games in Moscow and Los Angeles respectively) Canada has averaged 14.5 medals for the summer Games. That said, this year's total of 12 is not a huge decline and certainly not worth the national angst it has caused in some circles.

Our athletes surprised in some events, disappointed in others and were what we should have expected... *average*.

The fact remains, because both our federal and provincial governments have woefully underfunded amateur athletics for decades, an average result is what we should expect. This point was underscored Sunday by International Olympic Committee chief Jacques Rogge who said he would like to see Canadian athletes get more cash, especially in time to make a difference for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The fact our athletes are underfunded is not news, nor are the promises made recently by both provincial and federal politicians to provide more money for training, coaching, etc.

It is a tiresome, decades-old question—to fund or not to fund—that should finally be answered by our political leaders who have proven to be perennial gold medalists in waffling.



Letters to the editor...

Councillor's plea for night's sleep 'pathetic'

Dear editor,

It seems quite pathetic that Councillor Moya Johnson is pleading for a night of sleep dur-

ing the Georgetown Fall Fair (Independent Aug. 4).

Would she like to relate to the nights and days the members of the Georgetown Agricultural Society (GAS) give up to VOLUNTEER in organizing the event? We should be most grateful to them for keeping the fair alive for 158 years. Acton and Milton Fall Fair are thriving. Let's not have Georgetown lose theirs through such petty bickering.

Besides, what is a fair without a midway? Midway operators, Funland Outdoor Amusements Ltd. rely on the co-operations of groups such as GAS to meet their seasonal commitments and payroll obligations. For a number of years, the midway was located directly behind the fence to the left of the main entrance of the Fairgrounds. To my knowledge, the residents in that area didn't complain.

Hopefully, the volunteers who organized the Main Street Car

Show on Aug. 20, with proceeds going to the William Osler Health Centre, were able to ensure that Rolly Rocker and the Hemi-Heads, performed their final number to meet the 11 p.m. deadline. After all, the music could probably be heard on Charles St.

We go from one bylaw to the next—smoking, cats, sign, and noise. In viewing the August 16 council meeting on cable TV I noticed that Councillor Johnson's seat was vacant. Possibly, she is suffering from burnout with her job and a fall fair weekend away from it all at a cottage may be the answer to help rejuvenate her system.

Then maybe should could concentrate her efforts on such important issues as trying to attract industry to Halton Hills to help balance the residential-commercial tax base.

Karen Harrison,
Georgetown

Reader disappointed cat bylaw turned down

Dear editor,

It's disappointing to read that a proposed cat bylaw was turned down by council, but encouraging to know that at least two members are listening to their constituents.

If we wanted cats roaming our property, we would have our own pets. We don't. What makes cat owners think that their cats can go anywhere, anytime?

We have a ravine property and try to attract birds with flowers and feeders, but many times these birds are stalked by our neighbours' cats. You state in your editorial (August 18) that we have not had an outbreak of toxoplasmosis; therefore a bylaw is not necessary. Why wait for an outbreak?

Yes, a bylaw would be difficult to enforce, but that is not a reason not to have one. Cynthia Gamble's article provides interesting data: in municipalities where cats are trapped and taken to animal control operations, 95 percent of owners did not retrieve their animal. What does that tell us about cat owners?

Carole Lusby, Georgetown

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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