

The Canadian Champion

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Strike not the answer

Doctors in Milton could join their counterparts in Halton and Ontario in a series of one-day rotating strikes.

Halton practitioners have tentatively pencilled in Friday April 16, Thursday April 23, Wednesday April 28, Tuesday May 4 and Monday May 10 as dates their offices will be closed.

There is little doubt that we have come to a perplexing state in society when professionals such as doctors are walking off the job because of fee schedules.

While we sympathize with reported figures of what the Ministry of Health is offering, in light of the costs involved in operating a practice these days, walking off the job isn't an acceptable form of protest and won't gain widespread public support.

Besides that, the Province won't be fazed by it and, therefore it just won't work.

The caveat doctors have placed on their protest is they will return to their jobs if an emergency takes place. We doubt that few doctors will turn down any patient who gets in touch with them—no matter what the circumstances.

The general public doesn't comprehend their financial crisis and, as a result, they can't afford to say no and forfeit the business.

Doctors who support their association's stance with the Ministry of Health but can't afford the humiliation a walkout may bring them need not worry—the association respects any doctor's decision not to strike.

Support auto industry

Canada's ailing auto industry is facing another threat because of a recently signed agreement between the United States and Japan.

Canada has no such agreement and has so far failed in efforts to obtain such a commitment from the Japanese negotiators.

That poses a major threat to the employment security of Canadian workers in the auto assembly and parts industries, especially if the Japanese dump in Canada all or many of the cars they had intended to sell in the United States.

Halton MP Otto Jelinek thinks this threat is very real and has been unsuccessfully hammering government ministers for answers to some very crucial questions for the industrial future of this country.

What efforts are the Liberal ministers making to either get the Japanese to reduce the number of cars they sell in this market, or to at least increase the level of Canadian made parts included in those units?

In one sense it seems strange for a free enterpriser like Mr. Jelinek to be advocating some form of protection for an industry that has committed the unforgivable sin of failing to respond quickly enough to changing market demands.

He dismisses the contradiction by saying outright protection of the existing industry is not the goal of the options and proposals he has challenged the government to consider.

If Ford, General Motors and Chrysler cannot respond to the

The lack of a solid front—at least a perceived solid front in the public's eye—will not better the doctors' position with the public or the government.

As a result, the doctors will appear disorganized and divided on the issue and will further jeopardize any hope of renewed negotiations with the Province.

The media advertising campaign in last week's daily newspapers was a good idea and letters to the editor would be another. Press conferences at least twice a week to explain their situation with respect to other provinces or countries would be far more constructive and informative.

And, if the doctors feel it isn't too late to consider strike action, these alternatives shouldn't be considered too little too late either.

There is a widespread misconception that doctors are extremely wealthy pillars of society who live some sort of privileged lifestyle. That is hardly the case—we know it, the doctors know it and you the public should know it.

Doctors in Ontario need the support of the public and deserve our support. It's about time they took their case to the voter in a responsible, professional fashion rather than adopt a spoiled brat mentality unfortunately enshrined in the subconscious of organized labor.

Let's hear about what you have to contend with.

market preferences of the North American car buyer then they should be allowed to fade away.

Before that happens, however, Mr. Jelinek is right in pressing for the imposition on Japanese cars of some level of local content before they are sold in Canada.

Every other industrialized nation in the world makes such requirements of foreign industrial firms operating in their country.

It is inexcusable that the Liberals have allowed the situation in Canada to deteriorate to the point where we face the destruction of an industry that is vital to the economic well-being of this country.

Immediate action is required to compel Japanese car makers to use Canadian parts in the cars they ship to this country, if they are to enjoy the profits that are clearly available from this country.

In the long run, Japanese and other foreign firms should be given tax gifts that have been handed out so freely to North American firms to locate plants here to manufacture car components, or the vehicles themselves.

Apparently, the Liberals have no intention of giving the Canadian industry the breathing space that is required to meet the foreign competition head on.

If that is the policy of the government, then the only logical answer is to start now the long process of replacing American dominated firms with companies that report to masters in Tokyo—and send their profits back there as well.

NEWS ITEM: MILTON AREA CREEKS SWOLLEN BY MELTING SNOW AND RAIN. EXTENSIVE EROSION FEARED.



Editor's Note:

Abortion and the fifth estate

WITH JOHN CHALLINOR



Far be it from me to pontificate on the pros and cons of abortion.

I have my own thoughts on the matter and, despite sometimes emotional debate both ways from friends and family, I am sticking to an opinion formulated when I first became aware of the subject in the early 70s.

Similarly, in my stewardship as the editor of this newspaper, I don't believe it is my duty or The Canadian Champion's duty to suggest or even attempt to modify your opinion about abortion on the editorial page and, particularly, on the news pages.

I'm sure most of you have already made up your mind anyway.

Abortion, like capital punishment, is a personal issue that only an individual, not an institution like this newspaper, can come to grips with.

But, from time to time, newspapers—in their quest to cover anything and everything that is taking place in their community—unwittingly get caught in the abortion debate by covering some alleged public forums dealing with it.

This newspaper just about got caught Sunday evening when I attended such a meeting on the subject at Holy Rosary Parish Hall.

For me to call the meeting a "public forum" is probably as ludicrous as the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus to call it a discussion about abortion—which they did.

It was public in the sense that 25 to 30 citizens of Milton attended. It was a discussion in the sense that they heard

Birthright, Halton Pro-Life and St. Martin's Manor argue against abortion.

The organizers didn't invite the medical profession or women's groups who support abortion to air their views on the subject.

Because there was no balance of opinion, it ceased to be a forum for discussion and, in my opinion, ceased to be a legitimate news event.

Don't get me wrong. This newspaper will attend "public forums" about abortion where the public has the opportunity to hear both sides of the argument.

However, I'm not going to turn the news pages over to one group so that they may use them as their own personal soapbox.

Fair reporting, which I demand of myself and my reporters, means getting both sides of the debate—if at all humanly possible.

Listening to the representative from St. Martin's Manor in Hamilton, a boarding school for unwed mothers, I had no qualms about her message. St. Martin's is providing a viable alternative for girls who wish to continue their pregnancy to term.

Having encountered some 65,000 abortions last year, Canada needs some viable alternatives.

The representative from Birthright was representing an organization that really provides emotional support for women caught in the middle of a situation that has to be considered one of the most stressful circumstances in life for those not wishing to start a family.

Remarks made by Birthright and St. Martin's representatives, relatively innocuous in nature, pale further in comparison to those made by a representative from Halton Pro-Life.

Knowing she had no official opposition to her remarks (we in the audience don't really count), this Pro-Lifer went on a rampage to the point where her fellow speakers and most of the audience were waiting impatiently for her to finish her remarks.

Referring to women who have had therapeutic abortions as "wounded women" left with the guilt they have "killed babies," this speaker went on to make some serious charges that, if made before the medical profession, evoke laughter more than anger.

If there had been some form of official opposition, perhaps the following remarks might never have been made:

- the suctioning equipment used in some therapeutic abortions is 37 times stronger than a vacuum cleaner.
- having an abortion is a serious, life threatening and major operation.
- the rate of abortions (apparently one million in the last decade) are worse than Auschwitz.
- abortion is a Holocaust.
- abortion leads to child abuse.

The above remarks do not merit my comments but I suggest that the 25 to 30 adults who attended the public forum consult members of the medical profession, if not historians. This reporter stood amazed.



Follow-up Fighting leukemia

WITH STEVE ARNOLD

Glen Hassall celebrated a victory one year ago and today he has totally defeated the disease that once threatened to kill him.

The 29-year-old Milton resident was the subject of a front page story in The Canadian Champion one year ago reporting his victory over a fatal form of leukemia.

His life had been saved by a transplant of bone marrow from his brother.

According to that story, Mr. Hassall first became aware that he had the disease after blacking out at a family gathering at Christmas, 1979.

He was rushed to Mississauga General Hospital where a doctor informed him "you have leukemia, would you like to see a minister?"



TREVOR, LINDA and GLEN HASSALL

Although the form of blood cancer from which he suffered was usually fatal in adults, Dr. Michael King, a pioneer in treating cancer patients, offered a small ray of hope.

That ray consisted of a transplant of bone marrow. It is in the marrow of the bones that blood cells are produced and Mr. Hassall's marrow was being destroyed by the disease.

He was told at the beginning of the process that the chances of finding a relative whose marrow would be acceptable were one in 15. The chances of finding an acceptable non-relative were one in 10,000.

Rick Hassall, Glen's only brother, met all the requirements however.

In March of 1980 Mr. Hassall's spleen was removed and a month later he entered Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto for the treatments.

He underwent radiation therapy to destroy his own bone marrow, intensive rounds of chemo-therapy to lower the threat of rejection of the new marrow and lived for six weeks in an airtight compartment to battle the risk of infection.

At best, he was told, his chances of "making it" were only 50-50 and he even considered suicide as an easy way out.

The actual transplant operation, during which he watched a television soap opera, took place Tuesday, April 15, 1980. Rick Hassall suffered through 220 needles to extract enough of his own bone marrow which was then transferred to

his brother.

Today, a year after celebrating his victory over the disease, Glen feels he is free of the threat that would have killed him.

"So far it's never come back," he said in a telephone interview. "There have been a couple of little problems, but the leukemia has not come back."

Mr. Hassall said he did experience some "graft versus host" problems when his body tried to reject the foreign material that had been introduced to it "but that seems to have stopped now."

He remains convinced that he has been cured of the disease, that he is not simply in remission, a period when the symptoms and effects of the illness subside.

"I'm not in remission, I just don't have it anymore," he says confidently. Every four months he travels to Princess Margaret Hospital for a test to ensure that the disease has not reappeared, but now he is beginning to think "These tests aren't really for my benefit."

"I think they're experimenting with me, but that's all right."

Even now, two years after the procedure and a year after he announced his victory over the disease, he hasn't forgotten the feelings of that time.

"It's something that I still think about everyday. When somebody tells you you're going to die, you really think about it," he said.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the April 8, 1981 issue

A 44-year-old Halton Hills trucker and ex-Milton police officer testified yesterday he was struck with a billy club by a Milton police officer during an alleged unlawful arrest at Fifth Wheel Truck Stop. Russell Connor of First Line, Acton, a self-employed haulage operator, is suing Halton Regional Police and three members of its department for false arrest and is claiming damage as a result of injuries suffered in the incident nearly two years ago.

A public meeting Thursday, April 2, has prompted Milton Council to make some amendments to the traffic control by-laws affecting three major subdivisions. From the meeting—attended by councillors and subdivision representatives—came many recommendations which were considered by council Monday night. Among these were requests for additional stop, no parking and school zone signs.

The directors of The Centre at 181 Main St. want Miltonians to know the new community drop-in is not just for teenagers. Originally conceived as a drop-in centre for the young people on Main St., a decision was made early in the planning to offer a wide range of programs which would include mothers and pre-schoolers.

Two Hamilton men charged with the first degree murder of William Edward Bird, 25, of 24 Lang St., Hamilton have been committed for trial by supreme court judge and jury.

20 Years Ago

From the April 12, 1962 issue

Milton Public School Board decided Monday night that it has no desire to purchase the Martin St. high school for \$135,000 or any figure close to that. The majority of the board was against purchasing the Martin St. High school unless it could be obtained very cheaply. Several felt that buying the old (built in 1920) school would just bring trouble in future maintenance.

It was White Hat Night at Milton Council and the usually serene atmosphere took on a definite western flavor as Reeve C. A. Martin and members of the Council got into the swing of the current Rotary Club project to raise funds for the development of Rotary Park.

Peter Andrews, a grade eight student in Campbellville Public School, won recognition as Halton County's top public school speaker in the Halton finals Friday night. The finals took place at Wrigglesworth School, Georgetown.

Halton fire brigades' new two-way radio system should be completed by the end of this week, making Halton County the first county with fire departments completely covered by radio services, Halton Mutual Aid Fire Services coordinator Douglas Wilson of Oakville said Friday.

The country awaits the decision of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker on the date of the next general federal election.

50 Years Ago

From the April 7 1932 issue

Suckers have commenced running up the creeks, which will no doubt afford sport for some boys.

The beautiful shade trees about town are gradually diminishing and no effort is being made to replace these trees that have taken years to develop.

Wray Bousfield has his saw mill ready for operation, and anyone having logs to cut will please notify him as soon as possible.

There were twenty-three guests sleeping in the transient quarters at the Town hall on Saturday night, which is a record for this year.

It will come as good news to the masses that the nuisance tax on amusements of twenty-five cents and under is not to be enforced. If taxes must be raised, let them be collected where there are funds to meet the assessment.

On Monday morning while Thos. Mills was sitting in the office of the garage talking to his employer, H.L. Ritchie, he was bitten through his right hand by a police dog owned by Mr. Ritchie, and is under the care of a doctor. Tom has had charge of the animal, which is used as a watch dog for the garage, which has been robbed several times, and cannot understand its sudden attack on him.

75 Years ago

From the April 11, 1907 issue

Last week George Sherwood, of Brampton, was unloading a car of wood and throwing it into a chute. By some means he was drawn into the chute and fell 25 feet, alighting on a pile of wood. His skull was fractured his right hip broken. He died the next day.

W.F. Dewar came home about a week ago after a long tour with the Kilties' band, which wound up in Mexico. He looks well and is well tanned by the Mexican sun. The Kilties' band is broken up and a new one organized, styled the Frazer Highlanders, of which Mr. Dewar is a manager.

On account of the holiday, Chas. J. Western, eyeglass specialist will be in Milton one day only, this trip. If your eye-sight is defective or if the glasses you wear are not comfortable, consult him in the Higginbotham Drug Co.'s store on Thursday, April 25.

Jacob Tuck, of Trafalgar, has sold his 100-acre farm in Trafalgar, to Jonathan Featherstone and will sell his stock and implements by auction on the 20th inst. He has not yet decided on his future movements. Mr. Featherstone now owns 675 acres of land, all close to Drumquin.

John M. Shew, of Elora, died last week aged 75. He published the Oakville Express a number of years ago.