



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Not likely to change

At the time this was written, Milton council was hours away from debating cutbacks to the number of local elected officials.

Unless there is a surprising turn of events, not much will come of it.

This despite a rather well-reasoned position put forward by the Milton Ratepayers Association, and, on council itself, by newcomer Rick Malboeuf.

Council, as is the norm with most organizations, will not move until forced to budge by some other force. Evidence of this abounds, and one argument put forward is telling.

It has been said that pressure is mounting on councillors to do more by agreeing to sit on various committees where there has previously been no council representation.

Councillor John Challinor, who is in actuality someone taking his municipal duties quite seriously, advanced that rationale.

If he believes it, undoubtedly others share the sentiment, flawed though the logic is.

Why should councillors sit on all sorts of committees not directly related to municipal business?

The people within these organizations are more than capable of advancing their proposals and lobbying efforts without the presence of municipal councillors.

Undoubtedly, one of the reasons why they are asking a municipal councillor to sit on their board it to get that woman or man on side with group aims, that is, to lobby the councillor, however subtly.

The value of a committee system is largely in its power of delegation. Many committees of community volunteers, when they have genuine and pressing concerns, are free to appear before municipal council to state their case. This allows deeper concerns to bubble up to the level where they can be dealt with by council, while lesser issues are resolved elsewhere.

In private enterprise, the board of directors does not sit in on staff meetings in various departments of a given company, since, obviously, they are not needed there. If something happens that they need to hear about, they will be informed later in an appropriate setting.

Council needs to work smarter, not longer, and to set an example of efficiency and thinking that is in step with the times.

Rob Kelly

Sad loss for Walter

Many will have probably heard already of the death of Beverly Mulkewich, the late wife of former Burlington mayor Walter Mulkewich.

Mr. Mulkewich himself is also ill with cancer. His late wife suffered from Parkinson's Disease.

Mr. Mulkewich was an able and honourable political representative for his community through many years on Halton regional council. He was an energetic, vital politician. Although he at times clashed with Milton representatives and was at odds with Milton aims, he was a fair-minded and compassionate individual, and surely remains one to this day.

We all are particularly saddened when bad things happen to good people. Life seems to have a haphazard, cruel tinge at such times, only blunted by the support of friends, and thankfully Mr. Mulkewich has many of them.

R.K.



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

It's a matter of whose religion, not what religion, says reader

Dear Editor:

In his letter published March 31, Richard Hodgins has asked me to answer several questions, which prompts this letter.

1. Mr. Hodgins bases his opposition to religious instruction in public schooling on the Baptist and Biblical doctrine of the separation of church and state.

The doctrine is right. The state has no business violating the integrity of church or family. The mandate of the state is to protect the integrity of both.

Mr. Hodgins' application of that doctrine is wrong. Education is the responsibility of parents, not the state, a principle affirmed by article 26, the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Parents have a prior right to choose the schooling of their children."

The issue then is not whether there will be religion in the classroom. Education never happens without someone's religion being taught. The issue is simply whose religion is going to be taught.

In Milton in the '80s, a congregation and the Christian parents served by the Christian Academy, providing an alternative to the State religion of secular fundamentalism, was forced from Town, and eventually the church and academy were driven underground by the same atheistic secular fundamentalism, tyrannizing public schooling and public policy in Canada today.

The state has no business in the classroom of the nation. The rights of every parent to choose to send their children

and direct their education taxes to the school of the parents' philosophical choice ought to be protected by the State, not systematically and viciously violated as Mr. Hodgins advocates.

2. I agree with Mr. Hodgins that it is wrong to superimpose the subversive because atheistic mythology of secular fundamentalism in the public schools.

3. The overwhelming majority of Canadians prefer the Theistic principles upon which Canada is founded (Canada's Charter) as modeled and taught by Moses (The Ten Commandments) and Jesus (The Sermon on the Mount) to the atheism of Marx and the permissiveness of Madonna in the public school classroom.

4. The dogmatic assertion of an theist denying the gracious, ennobling, liberating, humanitarian influences of Jesus and the Gospel in the civilizing of youth does not reflect reality but constitutes simply the irrational rantings of a mentally disturbed soul lost in his self-imposed dream world.

5. A hundred or a million years from now, Mr. Hodgins will agree with Christ that it is better to suffer for a little while with his followers than to be the greatest possible success as a Christ-rejecting, self-seeker and suffer the eternal consequences of having consigned oneself to the hell God prepared for the devil and his angels.

As Jesus warned: "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

Do you agree with Christ's evaluation of your soul? Yes or no, Mr. Hodgins?

*Kenneth Campbell
Milton*

Pud

by Steve Nease

