



OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 878-4943

Advertising Fax: 876-2364

Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver *Publisher*
Neil Oliver *Associate Publisher*
Bill Begin *General Manager*
Rob Kelly *Editor*
Karen Cross *Circulation Manager*
Teri Casas *Office Manager*
Tim Coles *Production Manager*

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Don't drink and drive

As the last long weekend of the summer approaches, many people will be visiting family members and friends while others will be retiring to cottages and campsites across the province.

Students will be moving to various university and college campuses.

We fear that fun times and partying may turn into nightmares for some families.

As members of MADD Halton can sadly tell you through experience, far too many families are torn apart because of the senseless tragic ending of impaired driving.

Police suspect two out-of-town crashes in which Milton citizens were killed earlier this year involved drunk drivers behind the wheel. That's two too many.

Statistics show that more alcohol-related crashes occur during holiday weekends than any other time of year.

Elsewhere in this newspaper, the OPP points out that 10 people lost their lives on Ontario highways patrolled by them last Labour Day weekend. The causes of the crashes varied.

But with the high number of Canadians travelling this weekend, it should be no surprise that collisions involving alcohol also increase. These are incidents that are totally preventable.

Alcohol is present at many social functions. We agree with MADD Halton that drinking is a personal decision. It's when alcohol is mixed with driving a vehicle that it becomes a public decision.

Don't let your holiday weekend become a tragedy. Please don't drink and drive.

Fourteen years ago, it was a different industry

In late 1984, when I first started working for The Canadian Champion, we still wrote stories on typewriters and passed the hard copy -- the typewritten sheets -- on to editors. Today that seems equivalent to etching characters laboriously into stone with a mammoth's tusk or something.

In the mid 1980s -- not really that long ago at all -- the editors would mark up the copy in the secret editor language, which included various little squiggles and circles around letters and words, all in red.

Then they would forward the copy to typesetters, who would input it on rudimentary word processors so that it was transformed into what are called 'galley's', the familiar strips of type that make up the columns in any newspaper story.

The galley's emerged from the machine in a long stream, if I remember correctly. The lengthier the story, the longer the ribbon of paper.

Jane Muller, the previous Canadian Champion editor, used to refer to wordy feature stories as 'scarves' because you could wrap them around your neck and both ends would drape down past your waist.

Once the galley's came out they were matched up with photographs that had been duplicated by

a special camera so that the duplicates could be put in the newspaper. Headlines would pop out of another device on thin strips of paper.

A paste-up artist, or compositor, would come by with a very sharp, metal-handled exacto knife and a special steel ruler called a line gauge. The compositor would then begin waxing all the page components and cutting them into precision size so as to fit on a page.

The waxing -- done on a small unit that feeds the copy and photos through rollers and a heated liquid wax -- sees the paper coated on the back side with the sticky substance so that it will adhere to the page.

The compositors had very good eyes for layout and design, and it was impressive to watch them effortlessly wield those sharp little knives, trimming and pasting, fingers flying.

They're all but gone now, and the type of work they did is pretty well a dead craft. Computers edged it out.

Nowadays, there is very little cutting and pasting, except if something goes wrong. The entire newspaper page is displayed on a large computer monitor. You can zoom in and out to check detail, and if you want to change the way anything looks it is simply highlighted and different attributes are chosen.



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Hats off to Donaldson Bourgon for all their help

Dear Editor:

I am writing to let the community know about the tremendous ongoing support Donaldson Bourgon Financial Services has offered the United Way.

For the third year running, Donaldson Bourgon Financial Services has agreed to be the major sponsor of our annual golf tournament.

Not only that, but they have doubled their own financial contribution to \$4,000.

As well, everyone at Donaldson Bourgon Financial Services continues to contribute in various other ways to the tournament by selling tickets, collecting prizes, volunteering on tournament day and fulfilling count-

less other thankless tasks.

Their support has been unwavering and generous and I think it is important for the community to know about the type of commitment they have made to the United Way of Milton.

To Donaldson Bourgon Financial Services, please accept our thanks.

We hope to see you all at Executive Fairways for this year's tournament on Saturday, Sept. 12. It features great prizes and a day of fun for those who take golf seriously and those who don't.

Hal Watson

Chair, United Way of Milton golf tournament



Rob Kelly

The program we use to create The Canadian Champion is called Quark Xpress, and it is the industry standard for page design.

Curiously, perhaps, all the computers used for newspaper production here, and most other places, are Apples. It is one of the few market niches where Apple maintains effective industry control, from small-scale desktop publishing through to full-blown production of newspapers and magazines.

In the wake of this wrenching technological change, many of the compositors embraced the new software and kept their jobs, while others did not.

I knew some very nice people, who did fine work in the composing rooms I frequented in Acton, Etobicoke, Oakville and Milton. They

couldn't make the transition to computers.

Some hung on for a while, but now they're gone, having quit, taken a package or been let go.

There's a whole new generation of younger people in computer pagination, as it's now known, who have had little or no exposure to the craft of paste-up with exacto knives and line gauges.

On the rare occasions when it's necessary to have some of that work done, I look to the composing room foreman or somebody who has a lot of years in, because for the recent graduates it's just an odd lost art.

As far as the news department goes, we compose our own pages now with Quark Xpress and the composing people concentrate on the ads. In the past the compositors did the news pages as well.

I do some of the pages and Karen Smith, the assistant editor, does the rest. She enjoys Quark Xpress, noting it is a nice break from writing.

I find it boring, perhaps because my knowledge of the program is not extensive. I always say I could teach a chimpanzee to do my part of it, that is if I could find one who would put up with me long enough to learn.