



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Kids getting short-changed

It's galling for Catholic high school students to watch what amounts to the first half of the school year severely compromised.

Across town, their public school counterparts enjoy an atmosphere of relative peace, and have access to a full range of extra-curricular activities.

But in the Catholic system, kids are getting short-changed. It's hard to see it as anything but intransigence at the negotiating table.

There are no after-school sports in the Catholic high school system right now, and no plays are being staged. There are few signs that the situation will change in the near future.

Last week, a Bishop Reding student led the charge to jump start meaningful negotiations. It's ironic to see teenagers lecture people twice their age as to responsibility.

Kids are, unfortunately, pawns used to pressure the opposite side in these talks, whether anyone will admit it or not. Unhappy students make for unhappy parents. Both sides count on those parents to make their feelings known -- and hope that the weight of such displeasure falls mostly with the opposing faction.

The fact is, the situation has deteriorated to the point where somebody in one camp or the other should seize the initiative, show leadership, even if it means conceding a point.

Get things moving now.



OUR READERS WRITE

Sincere thanks from Mr. Boughton

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for the honour the Milton Men's Slo Pitch League bestowed upon me and my wife at the banquet recently.

The John Glover Award has always been very special to the league, and to be put on the team of players who have been honoured in the past is especially touching to me and should speak for itself.

I have enjoyed participating on my teams and serving on the executive in the past. It has meant a lot to me to go

out every week and spend time with all the guys.

Remember, if you volunteer and take part in how the league is run and try to make it an enjoyable time for all 180 guys, you have really come a long way in doing what past executives and players have done for you.

Be proud of the fact that you at least have given of your time so that others can enjoy their time.

Thanks again.

Mike Boughton
Milton

Slots on their way unless we can help it, says upset ratepayers association member

Dear Editor:

A provincial hold meant Milton and Mohawk Raceway didn't get a charity casino, but now through a back-door process, the track can install up to 1,200 arcade-style gambling machines and virtually no Milton citizens had a say or even knew this was about to occur.

Sure the meeting to discuss the matter was open to the public but how in the world can you hold a public meeting if you don't tell the public you are having a meeting?

That was the game plan pursued by Milton council on a subject that has both long and short-term effects on every citizen in Milton. The Town sent notification to everyone living within a few hundred yards of Mohawk, which met with provincial law, but they missed out on good manners, a sense of propriety and common sense by not notifying everyone that had expressed an interest in

Mohawk becoming a casino.

Unlike our town council, Halton Regional Police have asked if allowances have been made for extra policing and appropriate funding. No answer was apparent, so I guess Milton citizens will have to bear the cost.

This will undoubtedly affect service clubs and charity groups' fundraising efforts through losses at local bingo. A plan was being worked out but died when charity casinos died. Who now is going to replace the half million dollars that our ball clubs, service clubs and even Milton hospital raise and share with the community?

Many, if not all these questions could have been answered in a public forum but our town council elected not to pursue that avenue even when presented by a motion to do so.

Other municipalities have by-laws and tax considerations to ben-

efit their town and our mayor and councillors Challinor and Penman attended a briefing on these matters. Why not hold a public meeting to learn the benefit of their knowledge?

Ontario courts have ruled that 2,400 machines at Woodbine constituted a casino and it was not allowed. We say 1,200 slot machines open 24-hours-a-day at Mohawk constitutes a casino and a major change in land use which the provincial government has said can only be approved by a local referendum.

We not only didn't get a referendum but our council didn't even consult us.

We shall appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Patrick Kelly
Milton Ratepayers
Association

Tax situation really doesn't make any sense

Dear Editor:

Halton has asked for an exemption from Ernie Eves' proposal of the 10 per cent cap for all small businesses in the 905 area.

If they obtain this exemption then it means that small businesses in Halton will be hit with 100 per cent and over tax increases.

I realize this does not mean all businesses will face this increase, but what about the small businesses that will face these crippling increases?

The people work long, hard hours trying to make a living by providing a service to the community.

Don't the powers that be realize that doubling or

tripling their taxes will very quickly put them out of business?

Small business people are grateful for Mr. Eves' and Mel Lastman's "common sense" approach to business.

L. Infuso
Weston, Ont.

Fax letters to the editor to 878-4943 or drop them off in our mail slot, 191 Main St. E.



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