



# OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Government must back down on gun control bill

Dear Editor:

It's likely true that most Canadians are in favour of gun control in some form. I'm 100 per cent in favour of all hand guns being registered, however this law has been in effect for 64 years.

I'm also in favour of much stiffer fines and jail sentences being imposed on anyone found guilty of committing a criminal offence with the use of a firearm.

But I'm not in favour of having to register my collection of antique long guns built up over that last 50 years. The majority of these are black powder muzzle loaders, some of which date back to the reign of King George III. My collection numbers several hundred, including a few hand guns that are, of course, registered.

Our prime minister in his Red Book promised that if the cost of implementing Bill 68 was to exceed \$150 billion, it would be scrapped.

At the gun rally in Ottawa September 22, more than 30,000 demonstrators attended. One of the guest speakers, a member of parlia-

ment, stated that he had full access to the files on gun control and said that the cost to date was approximately \$200 million and not one gun had been registered.

He further said that it was expected to cost tax payers a billion dollars by the time it was actually in force plus a yearly cost of \$50 million to enforce it.

In my opinion, spending all this money so foolishly is a terrible waste of tax dollars while so many other areas are crying for additional funds. You must be aware of the fact that the number of police officers per capita is at its lowest in 28 years. Add this to the fact that in 1997 the Justice Department's Canadian Firearms Centre increased by 126 employees. Too bad it could not have been 126 law enforcement officers who were added to the payroll.

It was a pleasure to see a Liberal senator take the stand at the gun rally in Ottawa. In very strong words she expressed her displeasure with enforced registration of long guns. Furthermore, everyone I talked to favoured much stiffer fines and penalties for crimes involving fire arms. I know. I was there.

I have always been led to believe that members of parliament are

voted into office to convey the feelings and wishes of the people who voted them into office.

I know that many members of parliament have told their voters that they are very much against the bill as it now stands but they know if they were to speak against it, they surely would be banned from the Liberal Party.

To me this reeks of Nazism. We fought a war against a man with similar iron-hand ideals. His name was Hitler. I know. I was there.

The enforced registration of long guns will prove nothing and cost all of us hundreds of millions of dollars. Two countries in which privately-owned firearms are banned — Mexico and Jamaica — have the largest firearms crime rate in the free world.

May I suggest, continue to enforce hand gun registration and triple the fines and sentences for all crimes committed using firearms, but back down on forcing every farmer, hunter and legal gun owner to dig out his old shotgun or take his grandfather's muzzle loader from the fireplace mantle and parade them to the police station.

David Enge  
Bancroft

## Studio tour fine all 'round

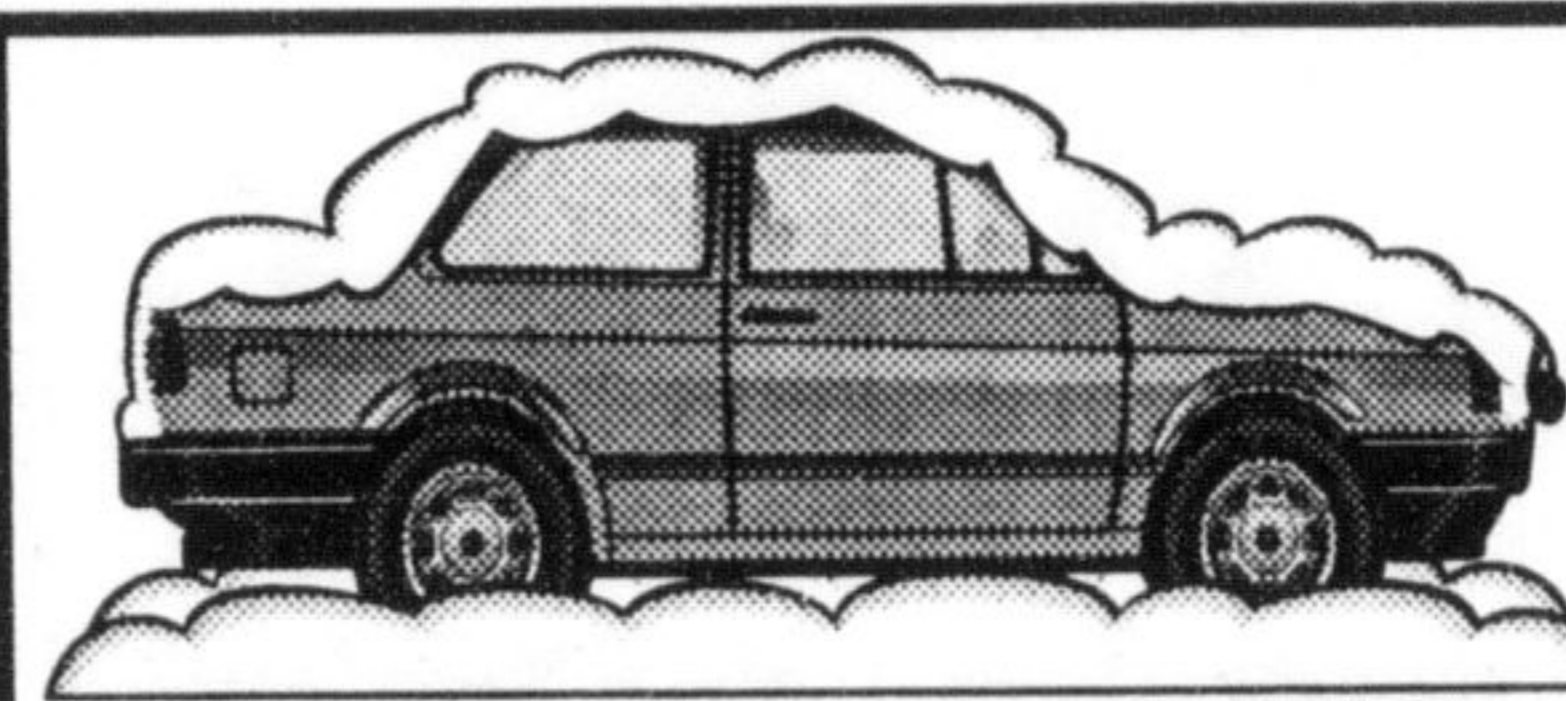
Dear Editor:

The Champion is to be congratulated for the new feature page on arts and entertainment. We at the Fine Arts Society of Milton were particularly pleased to read

your article on Milton's first Studio Tour of original art by our members.

Sixteen artists in the Milton and Campbellville area welcomed hundreds of viewers into the studios and homes.

Marion Detlor, president  
Fine Arts Society of Milton



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