



# OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Lots of questions surround pay issue

Dear Editor:

This letter is in reference to the February 23, 1999 issue of The Canadian Champion in which Irene Gentle reports as follows and in part:

"Local politics is a blood sport that doesn't pay enough to attract the best people," says Councillor John Challinor" etc., etc.

On February 26, 1999, an editorial in The Canadian Champion states in part and as follows:

• "Councillor John Challinor has weighed in by saying, in essence, some of his colleagues aren't up to the task at hand."

• "The question lingers: How long can this group work together and just who are the real incompetents, game players and schemers?"

It begs the following:

Is the appeal to the electorate for the majority votes that would guarantee employment with the Corporation of the Town of Milton made on the basis of a need to augment income from one's usual low-paying regular place of employment?

Is the appeal made on the basis of an overwhelming zeal and desire to serve?

Or is it a perverse attempt at the manipulation of an unsuspecting public that only has as its intent to gather votes?

Thomas E. LaPointe  
Milton

## Some ideas to help a sickly system

Dear Editor:

One of the few advantages of age is that one can connect past episodes into patterns.

In this family we can look back more than half a century. We and our friends and neighbors have had a few bad experiences with our healthcare system, some of which were life threatening. We documented and dated them. The outcome surprised and saddened us. It suggested that:

• Not a single one of the 22 problem episodes would have been helped or corrected by more funding;

• These problems span half a century, several provinces and municipalities, many hospitals and doctors;

• All of them added unproductive overload and cost to an already overloaded, costly system.

To cure this sick system, we must introduce choice based upon demonstrated quality and cost of service. Hospitals' and physicians' success rates must be published and known (the quality of service factor).

We are served by a fevered, overworked, over-stressed system, most of whose service providers are heroically dedicated but hopelessly overloaded. In factory production planning and control, we find that the entire complex process, which gives us the most fabulous array of high

quality, low cost products the world has ever seen, boils down to providing just enough of the right resources, at the right place, just in time.

Perhaps the healthcare system could step back, think of itself as a huge manufacturing plan (which is almost exactly what it is), and learn how to do these simple (but difficult) things for us health care consumers.

Frank Gue  
Burlington

## Letters Welcomed

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters.

Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included. Mail letters to:

The Canadian Champion  
Box 248,  
Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9,  
or leave them at our office,  
191 Main St. E.

## Small front page story requesting volunteers makes a big difference

Dear Editor:

As co-ordinator of volunteers for the Canadian Mental Health Association, I would like to thank you for placing my request on the front page of the March 19 edition.

I had been away the week the issue came out and have recently come back to work.

To my surprise, there were 10 messages from people that had seen the newspaper article and were interested in volunteering.

Your support is very much appreciated and is vital to the success of our programs.

I just wanted to let you know that your help did make a difference.

Ellen Brighton, Coordinator of Volunteers  
Canadian Mental Health Association

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