



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

The price is vigilance

Most of us have probably been thinking about the terrible events in Colorado last week with a mixture of revulsion and introspection -- wondering if a similar tragedy could happen here, or how likely it is.

Of course the answer is that it could, although, judging from the reaction of authorities elsewhere in today's paper, it would appear less likely.

The difference between what took place in Colorado and most of the crimes of violence that we hear about every day is the degree of forethought that went into the high school murders, and the potency of the weapons employed by the perpetrators.

So they were simply more calculating killers with access to relatively sophisticated armament.

If, as police suggest, programs aimed at nipping youth crime in the bud are more prevalent in Halton than most jurisdictions, that is all to the good. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

But we cannot complacently dismiss what happened south of the border by telling ourselves gun laws are more strict here, or violence is less of a concern because we as people are less prone to it. That is not the case. We are no less disposed to wrath than anyone else. If such a crime is less likely here it is thanks to whatever programs and safeguards we have put in place to curb the likelihood of it. Just as the price of liberty is vigilance, so too is the price of law and order.



OUR READERS WRITE

University Women's Club

Thanks for the help with our book sale

Dear Editor:

The Canadian Federation of University Women — Milton and district chapter — would like once again to thank you for your cooperation with us for our book sale, which was held March 26 and 27.

We are very pleased with the publicity, which you have given us over the years for our book sale. It would not be a success each year without you, our local newspaper.

Our goal is to offer university scholar-

ships to female graduates of local high schools.

We also benefit the community and protect the environment through our book sale. You have been very helpful to us in achieving our goals.

Thank you once again for your continued support of our club and its sale.

Margaret Gray
Secretary, Milton and district chapter
Canadian Federation of University Women

This is a great region so let's challenge what's wrong and work hard for what's right, says Day

Dear Editor:

I want to thank all those who showed an interest in the candidate selection process at the recent Liberal nomination meeting for Halton riding and came out to volunteer their time or simply to listen to the speeches and cast their ballot.

I value the time you took and I'm grateful for your interest and personal support.

During the run up to and during the nomination meeting, I became aware of two distinct phenomena in the region of Halton: north-south interest and cultural change.

In the region of Halton, our cultural and ethnic diversity is changing at about the rate of 1,500 persons annually. We will evolve into a community in which a wider range of ideas and solutions are available.

We, both new and settled Halton residents, are challenged to build social cohesion and ensure that all

our citizens have equal opportunities and enjoy the same privileges.

We have to talk, listen and teach each other about what is important to each of us in our maturing Halton — be it values, heritage, beliefs, trust, respect or acceptance — and learn to compromise.

It's up to each of us to create an environment in which mutual integration and assimilation can occur without hardening along cultural, ethnic or religious lines.

We need to be sensitive to this changing dynamic and evolve with it.

Frequently I was asked, why do we have to be in a riding that is merged with Oakville and Burlington?

Why do we have to share the same riding with people from Milton and Halton Hills?

We have nothing in common. Our problems are not their problems.

Although some may perceive

this to be true, regardless, we must anticipate the future and work for it.

As I crossed and re-crossed the Region, I visited farms built in the 1860s and the most urban-settled areas in north Oakville and Burlington.

Halton region is a microcosm of Ontario — be it natural resources, our heritage, rural areas, changing urban landscape, our commerce and industry to our ever-growing and diverse populations.

Let us draw on this richness, and with your help, with the care and commitment of our local and regional governments, we can continue to meet the challenges and tests of growth.

We have a great region, great municipalities and a great future, but only if we challenge what is wrong, work for what is right for Halton and the rest of Ontario.

John Day
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Pud

by Steve Nease

