



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

This is why the rules are going to change

It's no wonder numerous groups and individuals are fighting hard for stiffer penalties surrounding impaired driving causing death.

The recent sentencing of a drunk driver reported on the front page of this newspaper is a prime example of how the current system is failing to serve justice.

This is the case of a man with a criminal history in which his drinking problem has repeatedly landed him before the courts. This time, he tossed aside another chance to change his behaviour by driving drunk and killing a young woman who still had most of her life ahead.

For that, he will only spend up to two years in prison as well as undergo random urine and saliva tests for alcohol after he gets out of jail.

To a reasonably-thinking person, that's simply not right. The short sentence isn't a fitting punishment for taking an innocent person's life, especially under these circumstances.

While the accused has already been handed several chances to modify his behaviour, the victim won't ever get a second chance.

With this in mind, stiffer penalties can't come soon enough.

Karen Smith



OUR READERS WRITE

Chudleigh supports development

(The following letter was addressed to Mayor Gord Krantz and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

Dear Editor:

As you know, development plans regarding a parcel of land bordering the campus of E.C. Drury School for the Deaf have been contentious.

Comments have been attributed to me from a variety of sources. They are rife with misinformation.

I feel it necessary to make my position clear.

I support development of the property, provided use can be restricted only to

senior citizens. I oppose any development that doesn't satisfy this condition.

As well, my support hinges on this condition remaining on all future sales or transfers of the property or any part of it.

The land is zoned institutional and lies in close proximity to the long term care facility at Allendale.

I trust this situation can be concluded satisfactorily since the Town of Milton maintains site plan approval and zoning amendment control.

Good luck in your deliberations.

Ted Chudleigh
Halton MPP

Why is there greater poverty in Halton?

Dear Editor:

Recently I had the opportunity to hear a speaker from Halton's Social Planning Council, who presented some disturbing facts, and if they were disturbing to me, I hope they are even more disturbing to Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh.

Did you know that in Halton, there are 11 food banks and they are in greater use each month, not only by single parents with children, but increasingly by two parent families as well? Apparently, between 1992 and 1996 there has been a 52 increase increase in those living below the poverty line in Halton. This was shocking to me as I know Halton includes some of the communities with the highest per capita income in Canada. That certainly wouldn't include a family of four living on \$23,000 or less — Statistics Canada's definition of poverty.

If the economy is booming, taxes are being cut, few people are on Welfare and so many more are

working, why then is there greater poverty in Halton? Well, evidently many of these new jobs are only paying minimum wage — not a job I would like to have as a parent of three children.

Many of these people are living lives of quiet desperation and when their children arrive in our equally-funded school system, the support staff that used to be there to help them are unable to respond adequately because many of their positions have been cut and those remaining are expected to handle enormous case loads.

An increasing number of children are at risk in Halton because their parents are living below the poverty line. They may barely have enough to eat or be in danger of homelessness because in Halton, the average rent for a three-bedroom apartment is more than \$900.

Our people and especially our children are our greatest resource and while it's important to balance the budget and maintain a healthy

economy, do we need to do it in such haste that we create increasing social inequality?

Mary Reeves
Milton

Bad move, says upset reader

Dear Editor:

Your front-page story (June 1) about the Halton Regional Police Association's support of Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh is disquieting.

That the police should come out in support of a particular politician two days before an election is, to say the least, unfortunate. Surely, police should refrain from taking part in political debate.

I also have qualms about illustrating this story with a photo of Mr. Chudleigh and positioning it in the most prominent space in the newspaper. In my opinion, this is tantamount to advertising for him.

Ken Lamb
Milton



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Pud

by Steve Nease

