



OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Shame on the Tories

The provincial Tory government should be ashamed for its disgraceful handling of rental accommodation.

We are now hearing stories of students in major urban centres who are facing painful rent increases upon returning from their summer hiatus.

They of course have no option but to pay; rather, often their parents have no alternative.

Locally, stories are beginning to circulate of big rent increases. In one Milton building, rent for a two-bedroom apartment has gone up more than \$100 per month when an existing tenant moves out.

Similar stories are being heard elsewhere.

What has the government accomplished through this? Nothing, it seems, save to placate greedy landlords.

Rental accommodation is scarce in Milton so the price was already high.

And please, let's not hear that idiotic rationale often advanced by the Tories that freeing the market in such a manner will lead to more competition, hence a better supply of rental units.

That may happen, but a new pricing benchmark is implicit in such a rationale. When landlords are good and ready to make a killing, they may build some new units, and lease them out at the inflationary rates they are now beginning to charge all over.

Many seniors and less than affluent people will be hurt in this process. How much do the Tories care? Not much at all, it appears.

You don't want to see our holiday tapes

It was just my luck that the one week holiday I had this year was during the one poor weather week of the summer.

I waited 51 weeks for it, lasting out the sweltering summer heat, longing for the days I'd be lounging on the beach with Lake Huron a few feet away to cool off whenever I felt like it.

I got in the water once, and had to wear a sweater most of the time.

Still, it's very peaceful there and I love the rhythm of the waves crashing against the shore, especially at night. The sound of rain beating on your head can be nice, too, although it does have a bit of a hollow sound.

Oh, there were a few good weather moments. One night, the sky was clear, which eliminated the possibility of snow. That was nice.

We laid on the beach, looking up at the sky and counting all the shooting stars. We got to about 20, before having to go into the cottage and change out of our winter clothes into warmer winter clothes.

We've been going to this same place in Port Elgin for about eight years, so we've developed all kinds of traditions. Things we have to do every year, whether we feel like it or not.

We go to the movies, watch the stock car races, play mini-golf, do go-kart racing in Sauble

Beach, hit the flea market, go golfing, play cards every night, set up a jigsaw puzzle to last the week, go for dinner once at the all-you-can-eat Chinese restaurant, and go shopping.

Since there are a minimum of seven of us there at all times, and a maximum of 14 at various other times, there are a few battles here and there, but this year was the worst because nothing seemed to be going right.

After seeing the Blair Witch Project, two of the kids refused to sleep without the lights on, which was rather inconvenient, because it meant the lights were on for everyone. In a ploy to get the lights off, another pair of kids banged on the walls constantly to annoy the scared ones. Eventually, it was determined that witches didn't care whether it was light or dark, so it didn't matter.

Golf was a disaster, at least for me. I got beaten by a 12-year-old. He may be as tall as me, and the Board of Trade may be his home course, but geez. I did manage to win 10-pin bowling, however, although it was far from a perfect game of 300. I got 78.

The volleyball net we got for the beach was too short, so it was useless, but some of the kids decided they would use the volleyball to invent their own game, using the oars from the inflat-

NEASE, '99



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Thanks for the timely assistance

Dear Editor

I am writing to thank you very much for publishing my letter of June 8th this year.

That letter, which asked young people in the Milton area to get involved with our Summer Student Volunteer program, had a wonderful outcome. We have had nearly 20 summer student volunteers help at Allendale over the past two months. They have worked in Restorative Therapy, Speech Therapy, Recreation, Hairdressing, the Milton Place Day Program, and as Friendly Visitors. They have gone on

outings, assisted with BBQ's, run programs, participated in lots of different events and activities, learned many new skills, made new friends of all ages, and generally been a terrific help to all of us here at Allendale.

Thank you for your assistance in highlighting our program, and for your help in making our Summer Volunteer Program such a success.

Anthea Hoare
 Co-ordinator, Volunteer Resources
 The Regional Municipality of Halton



On the loose

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

able boat. That game ended quickly when one of the oars broke in half.

The Chinese restaurant didn't work out too well, either, when the kids decided to break the fortune cookies and stick them on the end of their nose so they looked like crows' beaks. Then they went, 'Caw! Caw!' while waving their arms up and down.

I thought it was rather funny, but apparently not everybody in the restaurant was quite as amused. And I got a dirty look from another table when somebody at ours complained: 'Hey, my food isn't cooked enough, it's still meowing.'

While we were out, one of the dogs escaped from the cottage and decided he'd go make friends on the beach. His new friends called

Animal Control, and we were able to get him back just as the truck showed up.

At least I didn't have to worry about my cat. Last year, I tried to put him in the car and take him with us. He jumped out of the window three times before I stuck him in the house and called someone to look after him.

Then with everybody working on this huge jigsaw puzzle for most of the week, we got all the way to the end and found we were one piece short. We looked for it for a day, then crumpled up the puzzle and threw it in the garbage.

I'm not exaggerating when I say that minutes later somebody said: 'Hey, I found the missing piece.'

Port Elgin is famous for its sunsets because the sun sets in the west out over the lake. They can be breathtaking, but we weren't able to see a single one of them, except on postcards. Saved money on film, though, which I guess could be considered a positive.

Not surprisingly, on our last day, the sun broke through the blanket of clouds and the temperature soared. We all sweated profusely as we packed up the cars and headed out.

I looked in my rear-view mirror as we drove away and remember thinking, 'Only 51 more weeks until my next holiday.' I can hardly wait.