



COMMENT

Prison privatization just not appropriate

When it comes to the complex area of corrections, jail privatization isn't one of Ontario Premier Mike Harris' better ideas.

Correctional officer and Ontario Public Service Employees Union representative Mike Dakroub makes a case against privatizing provincial jails in a story elsewhere in this newspaper.

While we're not entirely convinced that community safety and staff security would be at risk under jail privatization -- as Mr. Dakroub maintains -- we have to agree that the idea just isn't appropriate.

The bottom line is corrections isn't something that should be left to private enterprise. Due to the nature of the beast, it's better left as a government responsibility in which there's more opportunity for checks and balances.

The government has already taken measures to save money in corrections by creating 'superjails' -- like the one Milton will soon see open its doors.

Let's not make the mistake of going overboard with cost-saving measures, as it appears we've already done in allowing our health care system to fall below acceptable standards. Let's remember what makes this country stand out above the rest.



OUR READERS WRITE

Campbellville's peace and tranquility gone

Slot funds should go to police, hospital

Dear Editor:

A few years back (1994) a friend and fellow fire officer sent a letter to this paper.

He had been questioning councillors running in the fall election regarding a new fire hall for Campbellville.

The hall has yet to be built.

In the past few weeks, I have seen three letters to this paper regarding spending the revenues from the Mohawk Raceway slots to purchase land in the town.

It appears the residents want to protect

their peace and tranquility.

Since the raceway slots have opened, the residents of Campbellville have lost their peace and tranquility.

I haven't heard any rumors lately of Campbellville getting a pool or an arena from the Town.

Why not put the money into police, fire, ambulance and hospital -- all of which are going to carry the burden of having these slots in our backyard.

Lyle Stokes
Campbellville

Speak up before it's too late

Dear Editor:

We are extremely concerned about the rapid loss of prime agricultural lands within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and in particular the region of Halton.

We are constantly reminded as we drive through the countryside of the significant number of farm properties being developed and the amount of prime agricultural land either up for sale or about to be sold for future urban development.

According to a recent impact study conducted by the Regional Municipalities of Durham, York, Peel and Halton, the lands within the GTA continue to create a prime agricultural area and qualify as part of the 5 per cent of the Canadian land mass that is designated as Class 1 land.

At present, GTA farms have a high productivity, good land and good land access.

This trend of disappearing farmland and must be stopped and planning for urban services should be

done more comprehensively to avoid pressure on prime agricultural land.

Once this resource is gone there is no recourse. Has anyone realized the long-term implications for these vanishing lands?

The agricultural industry must continue to grow and adapt to new technology and that can only happen if the land base is protected and maintained.

Where will your food come from when the land is under concrete and asphalt?

Food is essential to everyone. What can you do to ensure that Ontario grown food will always be available?

We all need to become more aware of this loss of land.

If you are concerned about this issue, contact Halton MP Julian Reed and Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh before it's too late.

Karen Geary and Jean Anderson
Limehouse Women's Institute

Letters welcome

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:
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or leave them at our office, 191 Main St. E., or fax to 878-4943.



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by Steve Nease