



COMMENT

Marian Courtyard project quite an inspiring venture

The existence of the Marian Courtyard residence is an example of what regular people can do when they set their mind to something.

The 50-unit adult community building is now standing because seven years ago, some Holy Rosary Church parishioners decided that senior citizens needed a local place to hang their hat.

If no one else would provide it, they would.

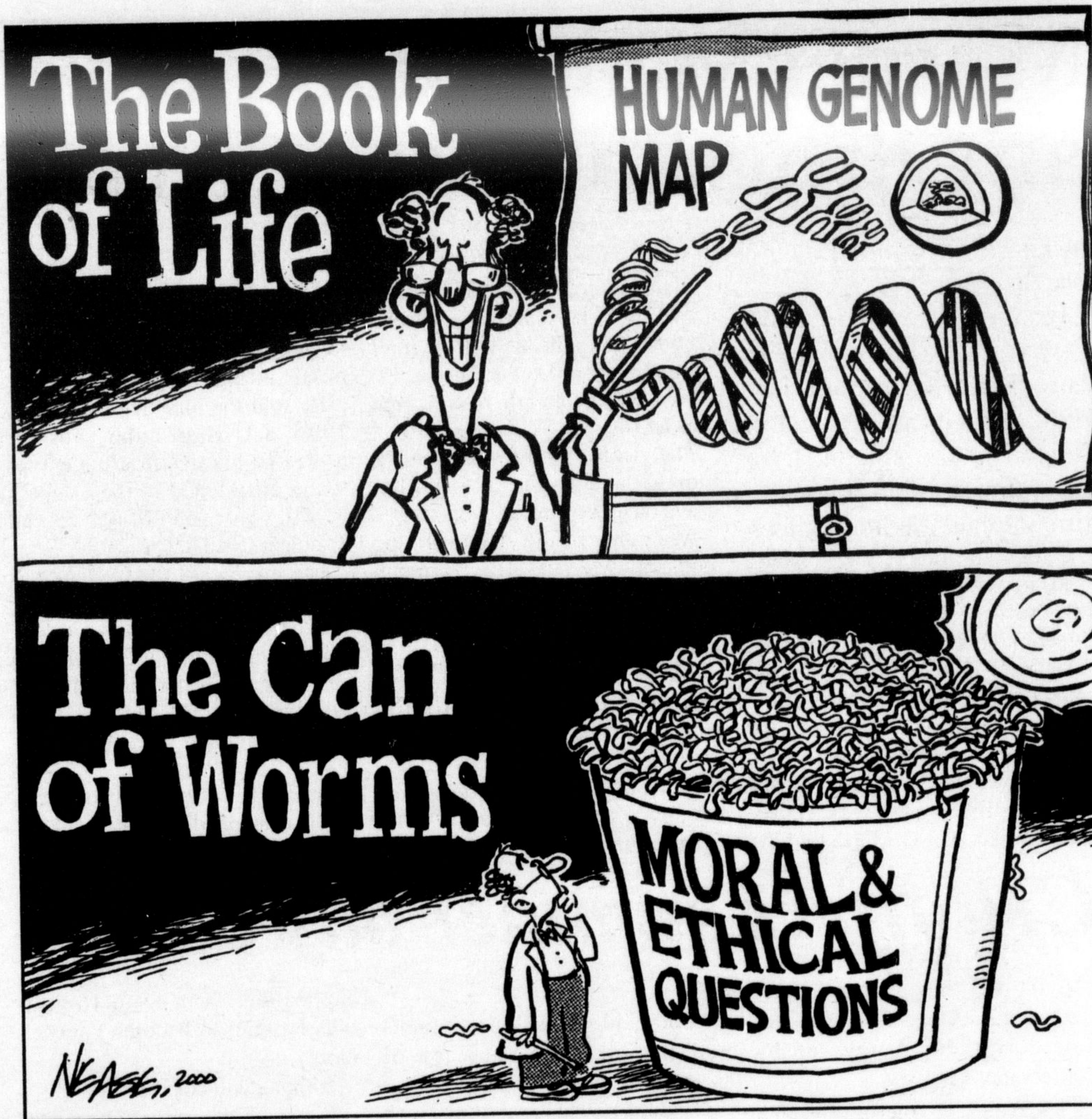
Years of frustration and setbacks followed. Progress was slow and money tight. But last week, the first occupants packed their bags and moved in.

It doesn't take much searching to find examples of commitment to a goal that pays off, to the betterment of all.

Locally, astronaut Chris Hadfield told us that the sky isn't the limit. Little Deidre Scholtz showed us that the odds can be beaten, and Lynda McKenzie gave us an unflinching look into the stricken face of Parkinson's disease.

And just as heroic are the hordes of volunteers who do their part to make the world better every day.

Not everyone's accomplishments are as visible as a brand new building. But vision, in all its forms, deserves both gratitude and applause.



OUR READERS WRITE

Letters welcome

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.

Government could lead by example and create win-win situation

Dear Editor:

One Saturday a few weeks ago, I headed over to my daughter's school to pick up the plants I ordered.

While there I saw the school principal at the barbecue and teachers handing out plants and running games. I saw the Jazz Cats from a nearby school performing with their teacher directing. My daughter's skipping team also performed and I can attest to the many practices before and after school that the teachers organizing this team supervised.

I heard from my older daughter of the many long practices her friends at high school were involved in before performing 'Fiddler on the Roof'. And, I know that the high school across the highway had a very fine production of 'The Music Man', which was not achieved without many volunteer hours.

At my own school many teachers were observed helping run events recently at our 'Spring Fling' and last week we had two evening productions of our musical 'The Canada Goose'.

These events represent a tiny microcosm of Ontario. I don't think we're unique and I haven't covered the whole spectrum of extra-curricular events currently happening in Milton by any means.

None of this seems to alter the prospect of Bill 74 at all. The old saying, "If it's not broke, don't fix it", doesn't cut a lot of ice with the current provincial government. They aren't listening. They are more fond of their own expression.

The leaders of our federations are our elected representatives, just as our MPPs are our elected representatives. I would venture to say that we have been canvassed and surveyed for our opinions on a much more regular basis than the government in power canvasses its constituents (all its constituents, not just the ones with vested interests, large bank accounts and massive power bases) except at election time.

I know the Harris government often overrides objections to its policies and tactics by saying that only special interest groups have any problem with their approach. I would like to refer them to some professional literature, which I believe would aid them immeasurably in their leadership skills.

Stephen Covey is an author who cannot be said to

represent any special interest group in Ontario, and he's highly respected in the business world.

I note with interest that his widely read book, 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People', is dedicated "To my colleagues, empowered and empowering." I would refer all our MPPs to chapter four entitled 'Think Win/Win.' In it, Mr. Covey speaks of the possibilities among which are win/lose and win/win. He says, "In leadership styles, win/lose is the authoritarian approach -- I get my way; you don't get yours. Win/lose people are prone to use position, power, credentials, possessions or personality to get their way."

He continues, "Most results you want depend on cooperation between you and others. And the win/lose mentality is dysfunctional to that cooperation."

Bill 74 is very much a reflection of a win/lose approach to dealing with others. However, win/win is also a possibility.

Well we have a government who's deeply scripted in win/lose and the ultimate losers are our children. Health care professionals, patients, educators, parents and children -- all of us would benefit from being in win/win situations. Isn't mutual learning, mutual influence, and mutual benefits, what we want for our children? If they chose to, our government could lead by example.

Mary Reeves
Lorne Scots Drive



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 878-4943

Advertising Fax: 876-2364

Classified: 875-3300

Ian Oliver Publisher
Neil Oliver Associate Publisher
Bill Begin General Manager
Karen Smith Editor
Steve Crozier Circulation Manager
Teri Casas Office Manager
Tim Coles Production Manager

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Barry's Bay This Week, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Burlington Shopping News, City Parent, City of York Guardian, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Post, Forever Young, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Huronia Business Times, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetanguishene Mirror, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga Business Times, Mississauga News, Napanee Guide, Nassagaweya News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Owen Sound Tribune, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

Pud



by Steve Nease