



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Supporting and promoting Milton rodeo blackens entire town

Dear Editor:

Re: Milton Rodeo 2000.

It's with shock and disappointment that I'm writing a letter about such a disturbing subject as the Milton Rodeo 2000. I work in Milton and have come to really enjoy the people and the town itself. I don't hesitate to promote the appeal and charm of Milton, which is why it's so hard to understand why they would want to be a part of such a blatant display of animal cruelty.

Far from being a harmless diversion, rodeos are a cruel and dehumanizing spectacle in which man is pitted against animal for the sake of entertainment. Both man and animal risk serious injury or even death in rodeo events with one crucial difference. The human competitors understand and accept the risks involved, the animals do not.

Livestock used in rodeo events are vulnerable to all kinds of injuries ranging from minor cuts and bruises caused by rearing or shying while trapped in the chute to major injuries that occur during the actual events.

In riding events, horses and bulls are severely agitated by a flank strap, a two-inch piece of leather covered by a lambskin, which is tightened around the animal's sensitive abdominal area. During calf-roping events, a calf is released from the chute slightly ahead of the cowboy on his horse. The calf quickly reaches a speed of about 40 km/hour when it is jerked back as a lasso tightens about its neck, jerking it to a stop and throwing it to the ground. The force of impact can cause bruising and hemorrhaging around the calf's neck and shoulders, not to mention the sheer terror it must endure.

Fatalities and serious injuries during rodeo performances are not uncommon. (This includes peo-

ple as well as animals). The Calgary Humane Society reports that at the Calgary Stampede, arguably one of the best organized events in the world, 11 horses, one bull and one steer have been killed or euthanized since 1990. Accidents at touring rodeos (such as the Milton Rodeo 2000) are even more common.

Of particular concern is the inclusion of the Junior Rodeo Competition. Children's rodeo events, which pit unskilled youngsters against sheep as the ride or attempt to lasso the animals frequently, result in injuries to the animals. Moreover, they send confusing messages to children. How are children attending these events to understand that they should never mistreat their own dog or cat in this fashion when apparently cruelty toward livestock animals is acceptable?

Humane societies worldwide are united in their opposition to rodeos. If there is any doubt about this, I suggest the "good" citizens of Milton con-

tact the Ontario SPCA in Newmarket or your local affiliate. Even associations such as the American Humane Association and the Calgary Humane Society, that have worked with rodeo associations over the years to improve animal welfare conditions and to limit rodeo abuses, remain opposed to rodeos in principle.

There's no place for rodeos in modern society, and certainly not in Milton. Rodeo events today bear little resemblance to past or current animal handling practices.

In Calgary, one may at least argue that the animal cruelty involved in rodeo should be ignored in favour of preserving what some Albertans regard as a traditional past-time. No such argument can be made in Milton.

Supporting and promoting such events blackens the entire town of Milton.

Lisa Hush
Milton

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:

The Canadian Champion
Box 248,

Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

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

I find it difficult to believe this brown water is safe to drink

(The following letter was sent to Greg Ellis, Water and Wastewater Systems Operations, Halton Region, and a copy was filed with The Champion.)

Dear Editor:

Further to my letter of June 14, 2000 and in reply to your letter dated June 18, 2000.

You say that "both manganese and iron are clear when pumped from the wells, but oxidize on contact with oxygen in the distribution system." And "the discoloration is an aesthetic

problem".

Maybe there is manganese in the well; I do not dispute that.

Maybe the ferrous oxide doesn't come from the old iron pipes.

Maybe when the rust, sorry, ferrous oxide combines with the manganese and strikes the enamel of my bathtub and washbasin it suddenly solidifies by some mysterious chemical reaction.

Maybe.

We have had more dirty water on July 5 and I find that your explanation, along with many others over a long period, may be lacking four important words -- once upon a time.

I find it hard to believe that water contaminated to this extent can be safe for the very young or the very old to drink.

Did this solid residue come from a well, or from old iron pipes?

Rodney T. Ramsden
Ontario Street South

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