



# COMMENT



## 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*

Wendy McNab *Advertising Manager*

Karen Smith *Editor*

Steve Crozier *Circulation Manager*

Teri Casas *Office Manager*

Tim Coles *Production Manager*

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## When the battle's over, it's time to call a truce

Now what?

About two years into sometimes vicious fighting, the Ontario Municipal Board has ruled in favour of allowing 189 geared-to-seniors, detached condominiums by the E.C. Drury complex.

Much time, energy and money has been spent on this battle, which has diminished everyone. The citizen's group that battled hardest against the proposal has been labeled anti-senior and stricken with the 'Not In My Backyard' syndrome. Certain councillors have been painted as unhelpful at best. And the developers have been tarred with pretty much anything going.

With the decision just in, appeals are still possible. More time, energy and money could yet be expended fighting what many see as a losing battle. If it is, the big question is what happens when the shovels finally hit the ground?

There's a real desire for seniors housing in the heart of town, and those who take advantage of this development shouldn't be held accountable for its unpopularity in the immediate neighborhood.

Fight the battle until it's over, sure. But when it's over, call a truce.

## Elections are over — now we can move on with life

So they're over. The municipal election. The federal election. Even the American election, which took more time than a warehouse full of miniature clocks, is all over but the whining.

If you're anything like me, all this has you wondering what to do with all the hours previously taken up by fretting about the future of the nation and driving back and forth to the polls.

So because I like to be helpful, I've come up with some suggestions.

Having finally experienced the season's first snowfall, I respectfully submit that shoveling the driveway is an excellent option.

It's good for your car. Early shoveling will discourage it from sliding into a tree due to snow that melted into water, froze into ice and got covered by a slight layer of more snow, thus disguising the ice without providing an ounce of traction.

And it's good for your body, provided you don't have a bad back and always remember to lift with your legs.

And if you want it to be good for your soul, you just have to offer to shovel the drive of

someone less able. For free. And with a smile.

To make it even better, hum Jingle Bells under your breath, too. You'll be the picture of seasonal cheer and maybe Santa will even notice and give you something really good for Christmas.

Like a snow blower. Then you can do the entire street's driveways, spreading all that good cheer while playing with a big wintry power tool, too.

Next, buy a kid a Christmas toy. No, not your kid. Buy for someone you've never met through any number of worthy organizations. Like, say, The Champion's Salvation Army Christmas Bureau Fund and food and toy drives.

They aim to give families who couldn't otherwise afford it a Christmas through the donation of cash, food or new, unwrapped toys.

Drop them off at the office here, or drop it off at any number of locations provided by the Salvation Army.

Being someone's secret Santa will make you feel toastier than warm apple cider on Christmas morning, when your family is bathed in that Hallmark glow.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Reader says he's hesitant to embrace vaccination

Dear Editor:

Irene Gentle's recent article on vaccination is a good example of balanced journalism.

Since I've done research on vaccination, I want to add my comments to the issue. Why is there any mercury in the vaccine? It isn't comforting to hear there's only a little poison in the vaccine.

Anti-vaccination literature usually has copious references to scientific studies. The literature from Health Canada defending vaccination has no references.

My own conclusions agree with

Ms Parant. Vaccination mostly works but so does a healthy diet and adequate sleep. On the other hand, my first two children got vaccinated against whooping cough but still got what appeared to be whooping cough for two weeks. The doctor called it whooping cough syndrome.

The anti-vaccination literature makes all kinds of statements about the dangers of vaccination, for example the drop in the S.A.T. scores in the U.S. over the years since vaccination was introduced.

However, I believe this drop can

be attributed to the growth in smoking by women, the growth in television watching by young children, and the lack of one-on-one adult interaction for children in daycare.

On the other hand, the long-term effects on the immune system of infant vaccination are still unknown. The epidemic of cancer, the growth in the number of people with auto-immune diseases, etc. still make me hesitant to embrace vaccination.

Richard W.D. Ganton  
Gowland Crescent



Gentle  
persuasion

with IRENE GENTLE

To cool off, if the weather allows, build a snowman.

Better yet, get your friends or family out there and build two. Make them face one another from about 10 feet away, and then use them as snow-human shields for a doozy of a snowball fight.

Do this to rekindle the wide-eyed joy of all things wintry that vanishes with the adult realization that snow means everything from sloppy driving and scraping off the car to trying to find a sitter if the kids' school has a snow day.

Further rejuvenation of this innocent wonder could come from convincing your workplace to

have a snow day, too.

Then you wouldn't have to make the drive or clean off the car. You could just pull on your woollies and make snow angels with your eight-year-old. Or your spouse. Or the old lady next door.

If you make this very obvious, our photographer, who never gets a snow day himself, may see you in his wanderings. You may even make our front page. So make sure the snow day is one your boss knows about. The Champion is not responsible for job losses due to misrepresented snow days.

Finally, slow down. It's winter. Every sane mammal uses this time to sleep until spring. Since that would be more difficult to explain to your boss than a snow day, this isn't the recommended tactic.

But chill days and long nights have a message for humans, too.

Like spend time with people you like, turn off CNN and forget the direction to the polling stations.

At least for another few years.