



COMMENT

New registry is a start

Next week, the Ontario legislature is expected to enact Christopher's Law, making it mandatory for sex offenders to be part of a registry accessible to law enforcement agencies.

Named for an 11-year-old Brampton boy who was abducted, sexually assaulted and then taken to a park and stabbed to death, the new legislation aims to make sure children don't fall prey to sexual predators ever again.

What happened to Christopher Stephenson didn't have to happen. The boy's killer — Joseph Fredericks — was a monster. A career sex offender, he spent most of his 46 years behind the bars of mental health institutions and, later, correctional facilities.

At the time of Christopher's abduction, Fredericks was out on mandatory supervision after serving time for sexually assaulting a boy in Ottawa. Under the rules of his release, Fredericks was supposed to inform correctional officials of any change of address. In 1988, he moved to a basement apartment in Brampton and told no one. Then, on Father's Day, Jim Stephenson was called to a Brampton morgue to identify his only son.

Christopher's Law may only apply in Ontario, but it's a start. It has taken nearly 13 years for this innocent boy's murder to lead to tougher laws for sex offenders. But even if one child's life is now saved as a result, it will have been worth the wait



OUR READERS WRITE

Good Friday service was inspiring

Dear Editor:

Please convey to the Milton Ministerial Association and the people of Holy Rosary Church my heartfelt gratitude for the privilege and opportunity of attending the Good Friday service held at Holy Rosary.

It was perhaps the most inspiring and encouraging experience of ecumenical gathering I have had in my 35 years in Milton. I pray it may prove to be the first annual community Good Friday event.

George Willoughby
Milton

Thanks to everyone who attended fundraiser

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Canadian Cancer Society Dinner/Dance held at Holy Rosary Parish Hall March 24.

A special thanks to all the people and

businesses that donated time and supplies to make this happen. With everyone's efforts we were able to raise \$1,660 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Azzura Faggion
Tremaine Road

What we need is system of parental choice

Dear Editor:

It's pathetic to see Dalton McGuinty, of all people, trying to decentralize education decisions by suggesting to explore a voucher system, while the government is making elusive statements to "children being able to go to the school of choice in their neighbourhood."

Not only do we have the word of the premier, but every indication is that Mike Harris isn't going toward, but away from a voucher system by centralizing and unilaterally imposing all sorts of decisions — from tax levies to curriculum choices and from planning to bargaining with teachers.

The government shouldn't only explore, but implement a system of parental choice where all important responsibilities in education are shared between the parents and the teachers, not between school boards and bureaucrats at the Ministry of Education.

The Family Coalition Party of Ontario has had a true parental choice system in their policy book for years. You can find the details on our OntarioCoalition.com web site. It's only when one of the "established" parties speaks that the "politically correct" media responds.

We urge the media not to stifle

our party's positive proposals for the needs of families in education, health care and the economy, to name a few.

We all have a duty to inform the families of Ontario of alternatives that allow our children to face the future with confidence, rather than settle for an antiquated, non-competitive education system.

I challenge the "established parties" to use the upcoming by-election in Vaughan-King-Aurora to hear what families have to say on the education issue.

Giuseppe Gori, leader
Family Coalition Party of Ontario



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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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, Halton Business Times, 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, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune.

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Pud

by Steve Nease

