



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Individual Canadians have no reason to be embarrassed by terrorist acts, says reader

Dear Editor:

Canadians aren't only angered and concerned by the horrific events of September 11, 2001, they are also embarrassed and humiliated. They're angered and concerned by the actions of the terrorists. They're embarrassed and humiliated by the inaction of the Chretien government.

Individual Canadians have no reason to feel embarrassed or humiliated by their own actions. After all, when the receipts are finally tallied, outside of the United States, itself, Canadians will have donated more volunteers to the clean-up in New York than any other country. They will have donated more money to the surviving families than any other nation. They will have given more blood to the victims than any other people.

Individual Americans know this. The United States government knows this. Yes, even President George Bush knows this. So why the infamous snub by the president during his historic address to congress?

For the first time in Canada's brief history of direct military participation with the United States, when the prime minister of Canada was called upon for his unqualified support by the president of the United States September 11, Canada didn't answer the bell. Rather than offer our unqualified support with details to follow, Prime Minister Chretien dithered. President Bush was sending the government of Canada a message.

At its greatest hour of need, its largest trading partner, its most significant world ally and its oldest friend — Canada — couldn't be counted on to fight such an obvious injustice against the American people.

When the Chretien government

finally enunciated what support it would provide, it was too little, too late. And, beyond the outright incompetence of this government, we now all know why.

Canada's proud military history has been tarnished. The successor to the modest-sized yet powerful fighting machine that won many, many battles in the First World War, Second World War and the Korean War and helped to maintain the democratic freedoms we all enjoy today, is in shambles. The heart of Canada's armed forces is strong, but its might is weak.

Canada's fighting force is half the size it was when the Chretien government came to power in '93.

For example, Canada only has half the number of flight crews it requires to fly all of its CF-18 jet fighters. Similarly, Canada is unable to properly man or arm its naval fleet of frigates and destroyers. Most critically, Canada is unable to safely maneuver its personnel from land to sea and back again because it is using the infamous, aging Sea King helicopters.

To understand the history of the Sea Kings is to understand the Chretien government's attitude about Canada's national defense. Military experts as being 40,000 parts flying in formation have uncharitably described the Sea Kings.

For each hour of flying time, they require 30 hours of maintenance time. They were supposed to be out of service by now and, because they are still in use, more than half-a-dozen Canadian armed forces personnel have needlessly died. These are the helicopters that Canada is supposed to use — and has no choice but to use — in the war against terrorism.

Halton residents, in particular, are all too familiar with the Sea King tragedy. When the

Conservative government approved the replacement program for the Sea Kings in the early 1990s, Derlan Aerospace of Milton was one of the companies subcontracted to build parts for the replacement helicopter — the state-of-the-art EG-101. The contract was to create hundreds of direct and spin-off jobs for Halton residents.

But, during the federal election campaign in October 1993, in a fit of pure partisanship as he walked off an airplane, Canada's current prime minister promised he would cancel the helicopter contract when his government was elected. And, he did just that. In retrospect, it was one of the very few promises his government kept. It was a promise he should never have made.

Today, Canadian servicemen are dying in Sea Kings that should have been de-commissioned by now. A helicopter replacement program hasn't been approved. And, at the United States' greatest hour of need, Canada is hamstrung by too few fighting men and women in its military ranks and unsafe helicopters with which to move them about in a theatre of war.

Little wonder, Canadians are embarrassed and humiliated.

There will be a federal election in 2003. Canadians owe it to the country's military personnel, volunteers and veterans as well as its allies around the world not to forget this saddest chapter in our military history during that election.

They need to elect a new government that, among other things, understands the importance of national defense and, more importantly, of coming to the aid of friends.

**Dan McGill, president
Halton PC Federal Riding
Association**

Majority of jail committals for year have been vagrants — according to report, only one female among 274 in prison

'Time Capsules' are gems of information extracted from past issues of *The Canadian Champion* and other publications to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

October 1892

Jailer Vanallen reports for the jail year that there were 274 committals to jail during the year, including 273 males and one female. The majority committed, 228 to be exact, have been vagrants. The number of committals for drunkenness was six and the number of prisoners awaiting sentence was 30. Halton jail is noted as the best and most economical. Its rate per diem for maintenance and feed of prisoners was 4 8/10 cents while that for Hamilton was 7 7/10 cents and for Kingston 8 cents.

November 1892

Two weeks ago the inspector for the Fire Underwriters' Association tested the agility of our firemen. He reported that within a minute four firemen had the two hose reels ready for action and in less than five minutes, at a distance of over 200 yards, had their hose attached and water pouring out on a building.

This was satisfactory to the inspector but our class of insurance was lowered from D to E on account of the small quantity of water in the reservoir. No steps have been taken to have the supply increased so that our reservoir may be kept constantly full.

...

Mr. Jas. Lindsay has made about 9,000 apple barrels this season.

...

Milton is to have a telephone connection very shortly. The poles are being distributed along the track this week.

December 1892

A representative of The Champion visited Messrs. Winn & Son's shoe factory one day last week. One of the proprietors was kind enough to escort him through the different departments and explain the working of the numerous machines which are of the latest and best patterns and with which almost all the work connected with the making of a shoe can be done. However, in order to turn out a first-class article, more hand sewing is done in the Winn establishment than is usually the case in similar

Milton Time Capsules



ones.

The reporter was allowed to inspect the leather for uppers and soles in all its stages of manufacture and saw enough to convince him that no sloppy work, such as shoes with soles partly composed of refuse leather or paper, was turned out in Milton, that nothing but the best materials were used and that all were put together in the neatest and most substantial manner.

There were 53 hands at work and the proprietors stated that on account of the great rush of orders they would increase their staff as fast as competent hands could be engaged.

...

Editorial: Last week a combination of prohibitionist fakirs calling themselves "The Emeralds," a trio of singing evangelists, and headed by a man named Smith, who boasted of former degradation as a drunkard, held a series of so-called temperance meetings in the town hall under the auspices of Royal Templars of Temperance at the town hall with the inevitable silver collection.

Attendance was interfered with one evening by a large party given by a prominent Miltonian (J. Head) which was then denounced by Smith since the two principle amusements of the evening had been demoralizing progressive euchre and soul-imperiling dancing.

...

Chas. W. Martin came last week from British Columbia to visit his friends here and while examining the tail race of his father's (Joseph's) grist mill he discovered that water was running into it at the rate of fifteen gallons a minutes from a leak in one of the waterworks mains.

This accounts for the low water in the reservoir for some time past and the town's insufficient supply. When the pipe has been repaired there will be plenty of water again.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, chair of research, who can be reached by e-mail at jdills@idirect.com.



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