



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

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A lot to think about as we near Nov. 11

When you pause for a moment of silence Sunday — in honour of those who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War — there will certainly be a lot to look back on with pride and appreciation. For example:

- Almost 620,000 Canadian men and women served in the First World War at a time when the population of the country was only a few million. Of these, more than 66,000 were killed.
 - By September 1939, more than 58,000 Canadian men and women had volunteered to serve in the Canadian Forces during the Second World War. Canadian soldiers formed the main assault force for the raid on Dieppe, where more than 900 Canadians were killed and almost 2,000 more were taken prisoner. A total of more than one million Canadians served in the Second World War and about 45,000 gave their lives. Canada's navy was the third largest in the allied forces and its airforce was the fourth largest.
 - More than 26,000 Canadians served in the Korean War. Of them, 500 lost their lives, 378 of whom are buried at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery at Tangkok, a suburb of Pusan. Canada made a larger contribution in proportion to its population than most of the nations that provided troops for the international force.
- Lest we forget.

OUR READERS WRITE

Reader impressed by generosity shown for American relief effort

Dear Editor:

I'm impressed by the generosity of Milton residents in their support for the victims of the U.S. tragedy, and have read that millions of dollars have been raised worldwide to assist the victims and their families.

I think, however, that we should remember that there were approximately 30 Canadian victims of the terrorist attacks, and ensure that some of the money raised be directed to their families.

June Pinnell
Ontario Street

Champion thanked for its council coverage

Dear Editor:

We would like to thank The Champion for its coverage of our recent presentation to town council requesting that lawn pesticide use be phased out.

One thing that wasn't mentioned was the petition that we presented to council. More than 300 local residents support a ban on cosmetic use of lawn pesticides in Milton.

We will continue our efforts to educate and promote alternatives to lawn spraying.

Residents who are interested in reducing their use of lawn sprays are encouraged to contact our group for information on safe alternatives.

Erika Ristok, Shirley Steeves,
and Juliana Smelko
Pesticide Alternatives for Milton

Have your say with a letter to the editor. Fax letters to 878-4943, or bring them to our office.

Big Arn has huge task ahead with Jr. B Mavericks

John Arnold has done a great deal for local sports over the years and — like many of the people who keep our athletic scene humming — isn't afraid of a little hard work.

I just hope he realizes just what a daunting task he's set out for himself with the soon-to-be returning Jr. B Mavericks.

Mr. Arnold recently bought the lacrosse team from Jim Leworthy and will be bringing it back to town after a two-year hiatus this coming spring.

Mr. Leworthy spent the mid-to-late '90s building a contender and in his swan song season both hosted the national Founder's Cup and secured silver at the tournament.

But fans shouldn't expect that past success to have any kind of bearing on the 2002 Mavericks — who'll basically be starting from scratch once again.

Not to be too much of a pessimist — especially since I rather like Mr. Arnold and have come to enjoy the game of lacrosse (Canada's official national pastime and the fastest game on two feet) — but the Mavericks' new contingent will have an uphill climb just securing players, let alone wins.

While there's a solid local base available, there's been conflicting talk about just where some of those guys will choose to compete next year.

Many will no doubt look toward the neighbouring Halton Hills Bulldogs — who'll be hosting next year's Founder's Cup and have already made room for Milton players like Blair Beaulieu and Jason Ford in recent years.

And Oakville's addition to the league last season has made the pickings even slimmer.

Coach Glenn Little — a former professional



Up front

with STEVE LeBLANC

player with both professional and minor league coaching experience — may be able to recruit a few out-of-towners, but put together a competitive group is going to be extremely difficult.

Equally challenging will be drawing respectable crowds — which were few and far between, even during Mr. Leworthy's 1999 championship drive.

Had it not been for Elora and Oshawa fans John Tonelli Arena would have been mighty empty for the Founder's Cup.

Mr. Arnold may have ensured a little more success in this area by moving home games from Friday to Thursday nights — which during the summer keeps your weekend getaway crowd in town.

But as many a fan has told me year in and year out, "Who wants to be in a stuffy arena on a hot summer night?"

They've got a point. I like lacrosse as much as the next guy, but it really seems to be a sport best suited strictly for outdoor play.

But with all that said, I salute Mr. Arnold and company for trying to revive the sport in Milton and wish him lots of luck in the attempt.

Because quite frankly, I think he's going to need it.