



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Milton charities left out in the cold: reader

Dear Editor:

When I read about the monies the Town receives from Mohawk slots and then the indecision as to what should be done with it, I become upset.

Let me tell you why.

Going back just before the slots came to Mohawk, the Charities Association of Milton was providing our community quite well. We were making good money at bingo. It was so good that the government saw the potential and changed the rules, which cut the amount we were making in half.

We were just learning to cope with this blow when on the horizon appeared another beast — the slots. After several meetings with both the town and the lotteries people, the charities association was convinced

not to oppose the slots, with promises from both our mayor and council that the charities would see a share of the money from the slots — making up the anticipated decline at bingo.

Well, the lottery people fulfilled their part of the agreement and have turned over a considerable amount to the Town.

It's the Town of Milton that's not keeping their end of the bargain by not handing over what they had promised to the charities. This has left several service clubs and other charities scrambling to meet their obligations.

It's the people of Milton that are suffering.

Don Fendley
Milton

Teacher upset over opposition to teachings about Holocaust

Dear Editor:

As a high school history teacher, I was shocked and saddened by a recent article regarding opposition to teaching about the Holocaust. I truly believe that the Holocaust and the events that surround this horrific time are some of the most important history lessons one can learn. No, they are not pleasant; indeed, those who know the true scope and nature of this tragedy can rarely speak about it without becoming overwhelmed with emotion. This, however, is no reason to eliminate such topics from the school curriculum; rather, it is the very reason it should be included.

Every day our children are exposed to violence and tragedy via the news reports, television and various other sources of media. Young people are bombarded with Hollywood images of terror and atrocity, all in the name of entertainment. It's these images which make talk of topics like the Holocaust so necessary — it gives meaning and value to things which so many of our children have become accustomed. It's one thing to say that six million Jews were murdered at the hands of the Nazis; it's something quite different to view footage of the allied liberation of the concentration camps of Europe. It has some impact to read in a book about the torture and experimentation performed by the Nazis; it's another to hear it directly from one who survived it.

Our society is one which doesn't like to talk about unpleasant things, and the Holocaust is by far one of the events which reaches deep into our souls and screams for answers. The senselessness, the violence and the utter depravity that accompanied Nazi atrocities are so great that it is easier to avoid, or worse, sugarcoat the event. I have seen this first-hand in textbooks that discuss the Holocaust in but a few pages with some well-chosen photographs. By attempting to conceal this part of history, people are, in essence, contributing to the Holocaust in their own way. We study history to learn about our past and avoid repeating the mistakes of our ancestors, but how can this be done when the truth is buried beneath bureaucracy and bias? How can we expect our students to think critically and analytically about the past when they are only provided with part of the story? What value do we give this event if we do not present it in its detail?

Living history — historical events told by those who lived through them — are by far the most valuable sources of information that we have. Hearing stories told by those who experienced the events puts a face and a meaning to the information, with an impact and insight that goes far beyond any textbook or video and gives a real humanness to the history.

All Germans are not, nor ever were Nazis. Indeed, great care must be taken to make this differentiation clear in the minds of students. However, to avoid the topic altogether is the greatest disrespect we can give to those who suffered and died, as well as those who lived through this unspeakable nightmare. The only thing worse is the outright denial of the Holocaust altogether. The fact that one parent has responded in this way is a frightening reminder, that anti-Semitism is indeed alive and well in Canada today and is, perhaps, the best example of why studies of this time in history are of paramount importance, for in many ways, we have not made much progress.

I commend the teacher of this class for incorporating Holocaust studies into her classroom. Our new curriculum places so much emphasis on learning as much as one can as quickly as possible that often the most valuable lessons — about life and the society we live in — can be overlooked. Names and dates will eventually be forgotten, but true learning, appreciation, and understanding will last a lifetime. The Holocaust was a horrible event, but one that ultimately taught us what can result from hate, inaction, and indifference. We can't afford to remain silent.

Jodi Cross
Satok Crescent

WOW!

2000 Ext. 1500 LT 4x4 Z71
Loaded, Leather, one owner. Balance of factory warranty. Blue.
St.# P2091
\$32,995

Serving Milton For Over 3 Generations
The sensible way to buy a car or truck

RICHARDSON 878-2393
CHEVROLET-OLDSMOBILE
HWY. 25 S. AT DERRY RD., MILTON

SALES HOURS		SERVICE HOURS	
Mon	Tue	Mon	Tue
Wed	Thu	Wed	Thu
Fri	Sat	Fri	Sat

**Internet access
that's twice as fast as
high speed phone.**



Now you can do twice as much online with COGECO High Speed Internet over cable than you can with high speed phone access. Like watching videos, getting MP3s, upgrading software and hitting your favourite web sites.

Net net, you get twice as much net.

Now only \$24.95/month for 3 months.

(Includes FREE basic installation or SAVE 50% on professional installation.)

Call 1 888 6 COGECO or visit cogeco.com to order.

COGECO HighSpeedInternet

COGECO

Keeping you turned



Offer ends June 30, 2002. Monthly rate after 3-month offer is \$44.95. Professional installation offer is \$49.95, regularly \$99.95. Download speed based on transfer speed of 2Mbps for COGECO vs 1Mbps for high speed phone. Not available in all areas. Some restrictions may apply.