

This criticism thing isn't always barrel of laughs

Ouch. Not only does Rick Malboeuf not find me amusing — according to one of his frequent letters to the Champion — but he doesn't think family members of cancer victims should, either. I have no idea how he came to the conclusion that I was insulting those people, since I'm one myself. And as far as the statistics I questioned, it wasn't a matter of their accuracy, it was a question of their perception.

In any event, if you're going to attack somebody, even if it's in jest, you can expect them to respond in kind, and not in jest. I pretty much got what I should have expected and maybe what I deserved.

But I don't want to play that game anymore. It's not much fun. And I can certainly see things

from his point of view. He believes he's doing something for the benefit of all, then somebody such as myself makes fun of him.

Part of your job as a politician is that you leave yourself open to criticism, the same as a writer. At least we have it better than hockey referees, who are criticized even when people know they're right.

I like criticism, when it's fair, and sometimes even when it isn't. I used to write a sports column several times a week in the Financial Post, when it was an entity on its own. Once I made fun of the figure skating exhibition they put on after the competition is over, suggesting that hockey players don't return to the ice after the game is finished and put on another show for the



On the loose

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

audience. From that, a reader deduced that I was homophobic, and called me every adjective for head you can think of, none of them kind. Now, that was funny.

Another time, many moons ago, I wrote a col-

umn in The Champion talking about what was appropriate for sports hand-ins. One of the things I suggested would be edited out was cheerleading, meaning stuff like "Way to go, boys!," although I didn't give an example. The Milton District High School cheerleading squad thought that when I said, "No cheerleading," I was talking about them and took issue with me about it.

Except in that instance, most of the time if people don't see things the way I want them to, then I consider it my fault for not writing clearly. But, if they don't get the jokes, that's their fault.

Everybody's different, though, when it comes to being criticized in everyday life, at work and by teachers, coaches and parents. Some people

• see **SOME** on page 24

Religious Service Directory

Thank God for June!

I think I speak for most Canadians, when I say that we rejoice in the month of June. The world of nature is bursting with vigour and beauty, and our arduous gardening in previous years is beginning to show some results. With the milder weather and longer days we begin to enjoy life's many social blessings, and backyard gatherings become common. It is also a popular month for weddings, and the dressing up for those occasions seems to add that final touch of elegance.

Much of the appeal of June, however, lies not only in the delight it has in itself

but in the promise of the summer which is coming. The appearing of crops hints at the bounty of the harvest. The slower pace of human life tantalizes us with the reminder that holidays are coming soon, and there will be visits to beloved haunts or to new fascinating places. We shall reunite with old friends or meet new companions who will share our interests. June opens up a range of delightful possibilities just over the horizon.

I want to suggest that the month of June is a good symbol of the Christian life. Now in the present we enjoy God's bless-

ings, family, friends, and the beauty of nature. Many of these blessings are the result of previous generations, who have made the present world for us, and we are grateful for their labours which now are bearing fruit. But at the same time we look forward with expectation to the life which will happen when this present life has finished. There all the joy of earthly holidays will be experienced and so much more, as we enter into the glorious new creation that God the Father has promised to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. As the poet once said, "The best is yet to be." Just as June with all its many blessings moves on to something greater, the beauty and splendour of summer so this life with all its joys is a foretaste of God's Kingdom.

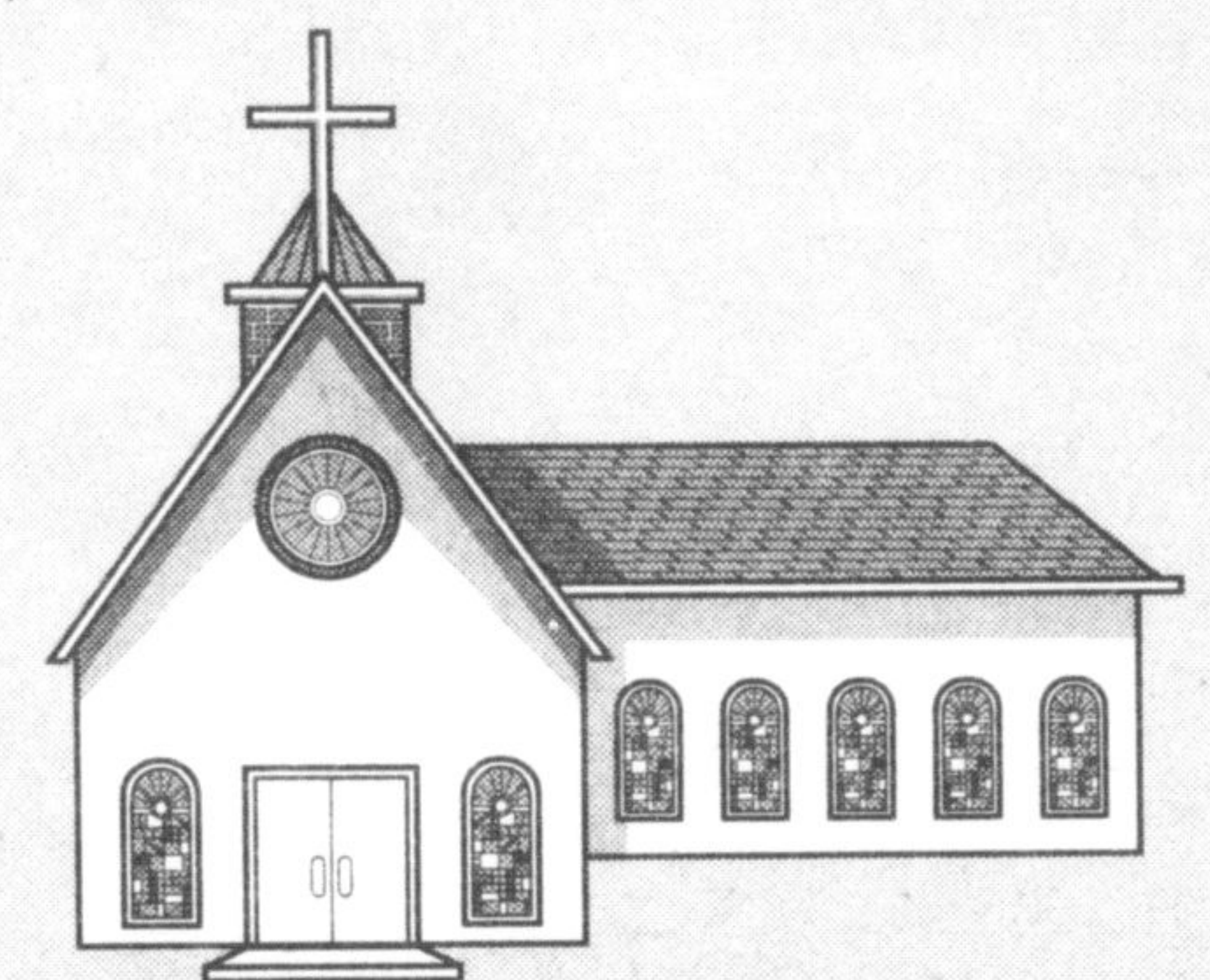
And one final note: We know that our

preparations and plans in June affect the summer months. May we be good stewards in this present life, using its blessings and opportunities to prepare for the beauty and abundance of eternal life.

The only person who can stop you from becoming what God intends you to become is you! Do not neglect God's principles for highly effective living as laid out in the Bible. Visit a local church this week and benefit from the challenge, inspiration and practical assistance that it has to offer you in your quest of becoming all that you can be! Service times and locations are published in the directory below.

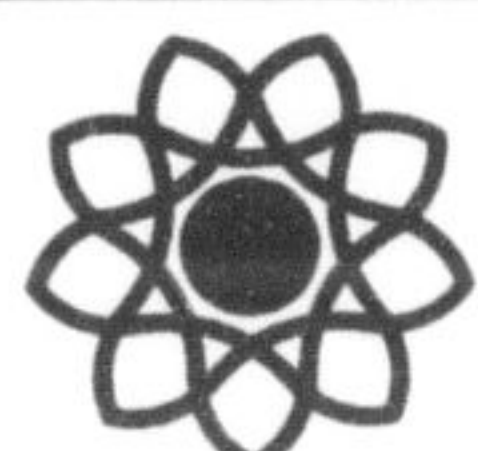
Submitted by Reverend Mark McDermott of Grace Anglican Church.

To book your spot on the Religious Service Directory contact Cindy at 905-878-2341



Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church
3097 15th Sideroad, just east of Guelph Line
Established 1836
(905) 854-1055
Associate Minister - Sean Howard
Sunday Worship Service, Sunday School and Nursery Care - 9:30 a.m.

Annual Chicken Barbecue
Sat. June 1 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Tickets \$10 advance \$12 at the door
166th Anniversary Service
Sun. June 9
Guest Speaker Helen Smith from Evangel Hall, a Presbyterian Mission in downtown Toronto
All welcome to worship with us in the historic country church on the hill.



BAHA'I

Informal Discussions every Wednesday evening

WEEKLY INFORMAL DISCUSSION
"Baha'i Faith and its Teachings"
All Welcome
INFO: 905-693-0688

GRANDEUR

"Divest not yourselves of the Robe of grandeur, neither suffer your hearts to be deprived of remembering your Lord, nor your ears of hearkening unto the sweet melodies of His wondrous, His sublime, His all-compelling, His clear and most eloquent Voice." from Baha'i Scripture

1-800-433-3284 www.bahai.org

GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

103 Martin Street
905-878-1629

Pastor Walter H. Isaak

9:50 a.m. - Family Bible Hour
11:00 a.m. - Morning Service
6:00 p.m. - Evening Service

Thursday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer

"You'll always find a friend at Graceway"

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH of The Christian & Missionary Alliance

(formerly known as Milton Alliance Church)
2850 DERRY RD.

• Phone 878-5664 • Fax 878-6676

Senior Pastor: Greg McCombs
Pastor of Youth Ministries: Jack Ninaber

10:00 A.M. SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE & "ADVENTURELAND" for kids 3 - Gr. 6 (Nursery care provided up to age 2)

** For more info on our regular weekly ministries, please call the church office.

Grace Anglican Church

317 Main St. E., Milton
the Church on the Hill
Tel. 878-2411 Fax 878-3005
www.gracechurchmilton.com

Rev. Dr. Mark McDermott

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am - Holy Communion
10:00 am - Sung Eucharist Church School & Coffee Hour

THURSDAY

10:00 am Holy Communion

Wheelchair Access Through Parking Lot Doors

MILTON GOSPEL HALL

306 Ontario St. N. • 878-3873

10:00 a.m. - The Lord's Supper
11:45 a.m. - Sunday School
6:30 p.m. - Gospel Service
Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19.10

We welcome you to...

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

123 Main St. E., Milton

Sunday June 2 - PENTECOST 2
Worship (Alternative) - 9 a.m.
Worship supported with music by The St. Paul's Worship Band
Worship - 10:30 a.m. Transfer Sunday Nursery & Church School @ 10:30am Service

Rev. John Benham & Rev. Gerry Hofstetter
Judy Hunter, Director of Music
Church office: (905) 878-8895
www.stpaulsmilton.org

NEW LIFE

6620 THIRD LINE, MILTON

"Only 1/2 km South of Derry Road"

Phone: (905) 878-3358

Church Affiliated with the

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Senior Pastor Rev. Dan Rogge

Children Mrs. Natalie Rogge

Worship Mrs. Esther Kessler

Youth Mr. Tim Stevens

9 am - Early Worship Service

9:30 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:45 am - Second Worship Service

Pastor Dan Rogge's Society at Risk Sermon Series

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

IN YOUR WORLD

6:30 p.m. - SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE!

DON'T LOSE HEART!

Supervised Nursery & Dynamic Children's Programs available during all services!

CAPTIONING PROVIDED FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:45 AM

FATHERS DAY AT 6:30PM

FAMILY CONCERT WITH WILLIE WIMPLE

Wow! Music, drama, comedy - popcorn! Admission fee - offering will be taken!

"ENLARGE YOUR CIRCLE OF LOVE"