



COMMENT

Success of this group will benefit all of us

Losing a loved one to an act of senseless violence is a traumatic experience. Fortunately, most of us will never experience this ordeal.

But it can happen. We've seen it here, which is why we're glad to see the formation of a new group — Victims United for Change — dedicated to ensuring that the victims and the families of victims of violent crimes aren't forgotten or ignored by our justice system.

The message of the group is simple: "What about the victims?"

Canada prides itself in a criminal system that follows the principle of "innocent until proven guilty."

To that end, all attempts are made to ensure the rights of an accused are protected.

But what about the rights of the victims and their families?

The group's goals are lofty — from legislating tougher laws for youth crimes to ensuring family members are informed of preliminary hearings and plea bargaining.

The group — being spearheaded by an Oakville woman — is in its infancy and needs help. The number is (416) 668-7906.

Its success will benefit us all.



Paul Martin continues to win over Canadians



OUR READERS WRITE

Ladies Drive 4 Cancer organizer thanks everyone who supported the annual event

Dear Editor:

Thanks to the generous support of many individuals, the seventh annual Ladies Drive for Cancer golf tournament was a tremendous success again this year.

We'd like to thank the 150 golfers for their enthusiastic participation in the events of the day.

You make our efforts most enjoyable and worthwhile.

A very special thanks goes out to the Milton and surrounding community. The generosity of our hole sponsors, prize

and auction item contributors, and cash donors is remarkable.

Many of you have supported us over the past seven years.

The efforts of all of these people have enabled us to raise more than \$70,000 — which has been donated in support of breast cancer research.

Again, please accept our heartfelt gratitude and we look forward to your support in 2003

Cheryl Davidson
Ladies Drive 4 Cancer

Milton has lost its security and purity with businesses like Exxxotica: reader

Dear Editor:

Milton and the surrounding area has been my home for more than 50 years.

Yes, the town certainly is growing. We now have almost all of the same things to be proud of that any large city has — more pollution, more traffic, more crime, less space for young people to grow up in, water the color of chocolate, less grass and farmland, more noise, street races, overcrowded schools, bar brawls and knifings, rapes and so on.

Now we can even boast of our very own strip joint and adult book and sexual aid store.

All of this growth certainly is something to be proud of.

I, too, have been following the comments that have been written in The Champion in regards to Exxxotica and the strip club.

One letter writer commented that many Miltonians had been brain

washed by "church-going bible thumpers."

I wonder, when was the last time that letter writer attended church to hear what was actually being said about these types of businesses? Several comments have been made that if "You don't like that kind of store, then don't go in."

These letter writers are more than likely good citizens and neighbours. It's not you that the "opposed" are afraid of attracting to these types of businesses. It's the drug trafficking and the increase in crime that I think these businesses will encourage and the sexual urges that these places cultivate.

People, would you enjoy watching your daughter being ogled by a bunch of smelly, drunken men? — or know that maybe she'll be the first one raped because something in one of these local businesses encouraged the thought?

Yes, when God created the

human body it was naked, not clothed. He created it beautifully, with the intention of it being admired and respected. He didn't create it to be diminished by having young girls gyrating and humping a brass pole.

Milton has always been a family community that I've been proud to brag about to outsiders.

But we've lost that security and purity.

We weren't perfect, I agree, but now we're on our way to being no different than Chicago, Detroit, New York or downtown Toronto.

Sex shops and strip joints have no business being here.

For those of you that have welcomed these types of businesses, I pray that none of you are ever personally touched by the negative effects that these public places can bring into your homes and lives.

Kathy Christie
Milton



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by Steve Nease

