



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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There has to be way to stop the violence

News that the newly-built Halton Women's Place shelter for battered women and their children is soon to open is bittersweet.

It's good news that women have a place to go when fleeing their abusive partners. It's wonderful to see the organization get a nice new facility that will house more women and children in need and be more comfortable, especially considering the current shelter was found to have mould.

But it's unfortunate that domestic abuse continues to exist as one of the main forms of violence in our society, and it's getting worse.

In 2001, there were 40 reported cases of domestic assault in Milton. That represented an increase of 25 per cent from the year before. And this year, police say the number of cases are on the rise again.

It's sad to think that people are more likely to be physically assaulted by their partners than by strangers.

The million dollar question is, how can we stop it? It's not a simple question and there are no simple answers. But we know we must keep striving for a violent-free society. Halton events like the annual Take Back the Night Walk last night and anti-violence conference 'Victim-Less' November 1 to 2 do just that, and they deserve all of our support.



OUR READERS WRITE

Sidewalk barrier is needed at Quality Greens: reader

Dear Editor:

After reading in Tuesday's Champion about yet another car accident at Main and Martin streets — at the dreaded Quality Greens corner — I found myself in disbelief.

I read that over a period of 10 years there have been at least three vehicles that have become embed-

ded in the front of the Quality Greens store — leaving the public and store employees to flee for their lives.

What must it take for the powers that be to come to their senses and have a barrier installed on the Quality Greens sidewalk?

Not only would this protect the public, but the store employees as

well.

These employees shouldn't have to take their lives into their own hands each day just to come to work.

Come on, let's wake up and smell the roses. Next time, somebody could be killed.

Mike Green
Milton

Thanks to all who made Terry Fox Run success: local couple

Dear Editor:

We're writing to extend a well-deserved thank you to Milton Terry Fox Run organizers Kim and Craig Thomas, as well as everyone else who helped make Sunday's event such a big success.

We're amazed at the enormous increase in participants and funds that have been raised over the years.

This is due greatly to Kim and Craig's dedication and hard work.

We're sure that with the town's continued growth, participation will continue to increase as well.

Michael and Jeanne Buller
Meadowbrook Drive

One rotten apple can end up spoiling whole bunch

When it comes down to it, the good outweighs the bad.

But as the saying goes, one rotten apple spoils the whole bunch.

Recent events related to crimes allegedly initiated by the town's young people might prompt some residents to believe anyone under 20 is a hoodlum. But in fact, only a small percentage of this group are the ones to be on the lookout for.

Crime in any way, shape or form is always going to be a concern for individuals and the Halton Regional Police, as it should be. The police are looking for trends and they know the hot spots around town where youth congregate — Rotary Park and Milton Mall, to name a few.

Det. Kim Duncan recently told me the hot spots tend to move but officers will be stepping up patrol in known areas. She also said the police service will be cracking down on drug and alcohol-related offenses.

A youth gathering like the one at Laurier Plaza September 6 — where pepper spray had to be disbursed and one officer was hurt — isn't typical in Milton.

According to police, close to 200 youths gathered in the parking lot that night for a fight between two local students. The scene started to get out of hand when people from other communities showed up.

High school liaison officer Const. Denise Jodhan said youth violence is typically related to status, bullying and pressure to remain with the "in" crowd.

She said most of the students she's spoken with have said they can't pinpoint the exact reason for committing crimes. Some will sell what they stole for money to buy drugs. And the majority of witnesses will stand by and watch and not report the incident for fear of retribution.

The town's high schools have supported the



Random thoughts

with FANNIE SUNSHINE

Diversion Program, which allows young offenders to abide by conditions set forth from a social worker and their parents for three months instead of facing charges. If the offender doesn't break the conditions, then the charges are dropped.

Unfortunately, crime is going to be committed, whether it's having your car stolen or getting jumped walking down the street. It's not only teenagers who are responsible for these offences

— adults are just as easily to blame.

But the difference is, if you hear about a teenager robbing a store or leading police on a chase, suddenly the entire population of 13 to 19-year-olds are branded as criminals, degenerates who must come from homes with minimal parental supervision.

I highly doubt their parents even know what their kids have been up to.

I'll never forget when I was 12 and was looking at rings from one of those stands located in the middle of the mall. I was with two other girls, and for some reason the stand worker must have gotten nervous after a few moments because she threatened to call the police if we didn't buy something. Even though we didn't do anything wrong, we each made a purchase out of fear.

The bottom line is, you can't judge a book by its cover — even if it's hanging out in front of a convenience store after dark.