



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Would you call 2002 another typical year?

If the terrorist assault on the United States made 2001 a year of infamy, could it be said 2002 will be recalled as the year things returned to 'normal'?

Suicide attacks in the Middle East (and elsewhere) continued to be common occurrences as innocent victims' blood was spilled all in the name of a holy war.

The environment once again came under attack from man as horrendous forest fires gobbled up thousands of hectares and seas were blackened by leaking oil tankers.

At home, our prime minister announced he would be stepping down in February 2004, much to the delight of many Canadians, especially Paul Martin.

There were moments of great sadness (the friendly fire deaths of four brave Canadian soldiers) and joy (our men and women's hockey teams' triumphs at the Winter Olympics).

Provincially, we said goodbye to Mike Harris and hello to Ernie Eves and were able to tell the difference.

In Halton, we were bugged by the West Nile Virus, saw the popularity of marijuana grow houses rise dramatically and were treated to a visit by the Queen.

All in all, just another typical year?

Try not talking about it so much and just doing it

Happy New Year, Milton!

With the gift-giving, party-going, stuff-your-face season now behind us, it's time to put those New Year's resolutions into action.

That is, assuming you made any earlier this week in the final countdown to 2003.

I can't say I've got a particularly impressive track record when it comes to living up to resolutions — at least not beyond the first two weeks of January — but like many of you out there I keep rehashing them year after year.

Of course there's nothing logical about making claims to start bettering one's self on January 1. It's just another day of the year and doesn't possess any magical motivation — no more than any other date on the calendar should.

Ever wonder how New Year's resolutions got started? My theory is that one of our founding fathers felt so great about surviving his very first

New Year's hangover — punishment for a foolish amount of elbow bending the night before — that he believed himself capable of not only returning his regular routine but of undertaking new challenges as well. And like any other tradition, it gradually caught on.

Okay, maybe that's a bit farfetched, but let's face it — most of us instinctively have a renewed sense of purpose on the first of the year which pushes us toward self-improvement.

And with no hangover to recover from this year, (as heavy drinking days are well behind me now), I've already gotten started on my 2003 To Do List. Just don't expect me to divulge the details of it here — or to anyone for that matter.

You see, my thinking is that the most effective way to sabotage a goal is to let a lot of people in on it. I know many of you likely believe the exact opposite, that if others know about your plans

OUR READERS WRITE

Reader says E.C. Drury development builder has destroyed a beautiful part of community

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to Gary and Marg Christie's December 26 letter saying thanks to the E.C. Drury development builder.

One day a builder had a dream — to create some cash by building and paving over a beautiful part of nature in the heart of Milton.

It was a place where children would fly their kites, people would take walks and soccer games were

played in front of a backdrop of nature's colours.

One day another man heard about this builder's idea about paving over the park and was furious.

So he acted with passion and fought for the right to have a little bit of greenspace for his children, his neighbours and his town.

But in the end, big money won the day and now Milton is just one step closer to becoming a suburb

rather than a town.

I was privileged to give money when the Friends for E.C. Drury Park came knocking on my door for a donation.

To the builder who found money by going under the guise of 'adult living' and pouring his concrete over our beloved park, I say shame on you.

Jon Whiteley
Beaver Court

Letter writer addicted to tobacco, says Alberta man

Dear Editor:

Pat Kelly is addicted to tobacco. That's the only conclusion that can be reached after reading his letter in the December 17 Champion. That's too bad.

It's obvious, too, that this addiction is being handled by having tobacco legal than by making it illegal.

Bruce Symington
Medicine Hat, Alberta



Up
front

with STEVE LeBLANC

you've got no easy back-out. But in my opinion, this just creates too much pressure and more often than not results in failure.

In fact the only time that I recall genuinely improving myself outside the confines of work is when hardly anyone knew about my efforts.

Like my younger brother has said on more than one occasion — 'Don't talk about it so much, just

do it.'

Whether or not he's accomplished more than yours truly is open for debate, but he's certainly done a lot more interesting things so far — including skydiving.

And why? Because he didn't make a big build up of it. He just went out and did it.

I myself won't be leaping out of a plane anytime soon — unless a local pilot slips a large amount of booze into my morning coffee and decides to have some fun — but I definitely have some things I want to accomplish within the next 363 days — some big and some small.

And as usual, I guess I needed a new calendar year to get me started.

I'm sure many of you have New Year's resolutions as well, whether it be to stop smoking, lose weight or whatever.

So good luck Milton — just do it!