



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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We can't ever forget

There has been much media coverage of late about the upcoming municipal election. We encourage all residents to exercise their right to vote but, at the same time, remember the men and women who gave us that freedom of choice.

Tuesday is November 11 and while we may don a poppy and offer a donation, our war veterans would also appreciate the priceless gift of remembrance. As time drifts by, there's fear among war vets that younger generations won't understand the reasons why so many brave souls willingly went to war for their country.

Will the children of tomorrow be able to recite In Flanders Fields and know that Canadian physician John McCrae penned this moving poem?

Will the children of tomorrow know that thousands of Canadian soldiers lost their lives in the D-Day campaign? Will they know where D-Day took place? And will the children of tomorrow fully comprehend the atrocities of war and its ever-lasting effects on families. Will they remember?

It's our responsibility to ensure that the sacrifices made by armed forces and navy personnel are never forgotten.

While today's enemy is far less identifiable in geographical terms and, therefore, harder to defeat, it poses no less a threat to our freedom. In 2001, Canadians again answered the call to military action to protect us from those who would threaten our way of life.

Now members of the Canadian Armed Forces are committed to preserving peace in war-torn countries including Afghanistan.

Just as we support the ongoing efforts of today's brave men and women, we must never forget those who went into battle so long ago.

We should show our respect to our veterans not just on Tuesday, but anytime we should encounter them.

By attending an upcoming service or simply offering a heartfelt thanks to a veteran, we can spread the message we have not forgotten and neither will the children of tomorrow.



OUR READERS WRITE

Milton Jaycees chairman says thank-you to all who helped with Meet the Candidates evenings

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in our recent Meet the Candidates nights for making the process such a success.

A considerable amount of work is required to stage one event such as this. To stage four different evenings in the time span of just over a week was a very daunting task.

The support of the Milton Chamber of Commerce as well as a number of very dedicated volunteers was the key to allowing these

very important meetings to happen.

I would like to thank the candidates for their participation and cooperation.

I would also like to send a great big thank-you out to the public from each of the wards for attending. You are why the Jaycees have been doing this in our community for the past 25 years.

Congratulations go out to Mike Luzar and Tracie Harburn for doing a great job as moderators, as well as to Ryan McVey and Doug Goodhue for acting at the Sgt. at Arms.

And finally, thank-you Milton for allowing us an opportunity to put our mission statement into practice, which calls for the Jaycees to "contribute to the advancement of our community by providing the opportunity for young people to develop the leadership skills, social responsibility, entrepreneurship and fellowship necessary to create positive change."

James Krane,
Chairman of the Board
Milton Jaycees

E-mail all your letters to the editor to miltone@haltonsearch.com.

Hockey Canada Week kind of like Christmas for me

It's hard to imagine that we need a national hockey week in Canada.

After all, there's rarely a time when more than a couple of days go by — much less seven — that we sports nuts aren't immersed in this country's most treasured pastime.

And that includes those summer months, when in lieu of watching games we're certainly talking about how our favourite teams look for the upcoming season — be they at the junior or professional levels.

Nevertheless, Hockey Canada Week begins tomorrow — something I wouldn't have known if not for a poster at Memorial Arena, my beloved home-away-from-home this time of year.

This notice got me thinking about all the people who factor into the Milton hockey scene, and indirectly make my job as your local sports scribe so enjoyable.

Of course the players are the ones who usually get the attention, but perhaps over the next seven days we should make an effort to recognize all those behind-the-scenes individuals who make local hockey possible.

Let's start with newly-appointed Milton Minor Hockey president Joe Bruno, who's certainly had his hands full recently implementing a five-year plan to address the organization's impending growth — not to mention handling issues that require more immediate attention.

Then there's 2003 Beaver Tournament chairman Ron Pullman, who will no doubt need a vacation after running the annual holiday bash. Catch up on your sleep now Ron, because the December 27 to 30 tournament is going to be extremely time-consuming.

And how about all the other executive members who help steer the Milton Minor Hockey



with STEVE LeBLANC

Up
front

ship, or the hundreds of rep and house-league coaches and managers? Sure coaching is one of the more fun forms of volunteering, but these hockey enthusiasts are still giving of their time just like any other community-minded person.

While we're at it, let's not forget people like Arnie and Tammy Parcels — who recently left the local hockey scene after many years as a

highly-dedicated coach and executive member respectively. They did an awful lot for the organization and deserve a nod of recognition, as do many others who are far too numerous to mention here.

I myself played minor hockey in town for a short time — the highlights of which would make for a great bloopers reel — but it's only in the past few years that I've truly come to realize how much I benefit from these type of people.

Although it'll never actually happen, if all these coaches and other volunteers suddenly disappeared I've have to find another form of employment — one that would probably feel like work.

So hey, hats off to all of you who keep me writing and keep those kids enjoying our great Canadian pastime.

Thanks for all your efforts and keep up the good work!