

# Comment

## Justice for whom?

The path between the judicial and correctional systems, as we view it, shouldn't be as complicated as it so often seems.

Through the judicial system, those convicted of crimes should be punished. The punishment should be fair and repeat offenders should face stiffer punishment than first-time offenders.

Habitual criminals and those using violence should be dealt with even more severely. A 15-year sentence for a violent crime should mean 15 years. While some may see this as simplistic, we believe it's just. Incarceration shouldn't be a walk in the park.

Last week federal and provincial justice ministers met in Ottawa for two days of meetings to discuss a number of issues. Among those issues were potential legal reforms that would see dangerous offenders identified and locked up sooner. The review would tackle 'gaps' in the law that allow potential violent criminals to walk free.

Sounds good, right?

While those positive moves were announced last week, it was also revealed that a \$3.7-million six-year pilot project by Correctional Services Canada (CSC) will see prison inmates receive dirt-cheap tattoos. CSC defends the costly plan as a bid to stop the spread of HIV and hepatitis C through the use of dirty tattoo needles.

Tory MP Randy White is rightfully outraged that taxpayers will subsidize inmates (who will also be paid to staff the prison parlours) to receive tattoos "while Canadians who have diabetes have to buy their own needles."

Are tattoos for inmates something law-abiding, tax-paying Canadians should be concerned about? Is this the kind of 'gap' that needs tackling?

As we said, the judicial and correctional systems work hand-in-hand. It's frustrating to see that yet again the one hand doesn't know what the other is doing.

## JUSTICE GOMERY'S BIAS COULD 'URT MY REPUTATION!



## Our Readers Write

### Mayor's comments don't tell whole story

Dear Editor:

It was interesting to read Mayor Gord Krantz's year-end comments in *The Champion*, especially the part where he pointed out that Milton property taxes are lower than those of most surrounding and comparable municipalities.

What the mayor and the article neglected to mention was the fact that Milton receives approximately \$6 million a year in slots revenue — a windfall that those municipalities the mayor likes to compare us to don't receive.

Without that revenue, Milton property taxes would have to be increased by more than 50 per cent to sustain our cur-

rent rate of spending, which would then make our tax rates one of the highest.

In my opinion, this mayor and council haven't shown fiscal responsibility. Despite the slots revenue, Milton property taxes have continued to increase. The fact that our property taxes are lower than those of surrounding municipalities has nothing to do with the actions of the mayor and council, but rather it's due to the decision of the previous provincial Conservative government, which decided to allot a portion of casino slots revenue to host municipalities.

**Rick Malboeuf  
Woodward Avenue**

### Canada's Governor General seems to meet obligations of office only when it suits her

(The following letter was addressed to Colin McKone, special assistant to the office of the prime minister, and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

Dear Editor:

Like many Canadians, I wondered why the Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson, didn't attend the memorial service of Lois Hole, Alberta's beloved Lieutenant Governor.

It would seem she deemed her vacation in Europe more important.

On January 8, David Staples of the *Edmonton Journal* paid a fitting tribute to Ms Hole, stating she "served many roles in her life:

daughter, wife, mother, farmer, vegetable seller, greenhouse owner, best-selling author, school trustee, Chancellor of the University of Alberta and Lieutenant Governor of the province. But she was perhaps best known as the Queen of Hugs, for the thousands of embraces she doled out."

In sharp contrast — at least in my opinion — Ms Clarkson continues on the road of self-indulgence. I believe the title bestowed upon her by the *Toronto Sun*, *Empress of Excess*, fits her to a T.

She and her tag-along husband do what they want when they want, with us taxpayers footing the bill.

Obligations of office seem to be met only if they suit her.

I trust someone in Ottawa will attempt to mend fences with the west by recognizing Ms Hole's many contributions — both to her province and Canada as a whole.

Paul Martin would be well-advised not to send Ms Clarkson to make the presentation, even if she can fit it into her schedule. That would be the ultimate insult.

With the 'sweep it under the rug' attitude of this government, it must be increasingly difficult to navigate the halls of Parliament Hill.

**Elizabeth Harrison  
Campbellville**

## The Canadian Champion

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

**Ian Oliver** Publisher

**Neil Oliver** Associate Publisher

**Jill Davis** Editor-in-Chief

**Karen Smith** Managing Editor

**Wendy McNab** Advertising Director

**Tim Coles** Production Manager

**Charlene Hall** Distribution Manager

**Teri Casas** Office Manager

*The Canadian Champion*, published every Tuesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: *Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser*, *Alliston Herald/Courier*, *Barrie Advance*, *Bolton Enterprise*, *Brampton Guardian*, *Burlington Post*, *Burlington Shopping News*, *City Parent*, *City of York Guardian*, *Collingwood/Wasaga Connection*, *East York Mirror*, *Erin Advocate/Country Routes*, *Etobicoke Guardian*, *Flamborough Review*, *Forever Young*, *Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press*, *Halton Business Times*, *Huronian Business Times*, *Lindsay This Week*, *Markham Economist & Sun*, *Midland/Penatanguishene Mirror*, *Milton Shopping News*, *Mississauga Business Times*, *Mississauga News*, *Napanee Guide*, *Nassagaweya News*, *Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner*, *Northumberland News*, *North York Mirror*, *Oakville Beaver*, *Oakville Shopping News*, *Oldtimers Hockey News*, *Orangeville Banner*, *Orillia Today*, *Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week*, *Peterborough This Week*, *Picton County Guide*, *Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal*, *Scarborough Mirror*, *Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune*.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

Editorial and advertising content of *The Canadian Champion* is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.

*The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product*

### Letters welcome

The *Champion* welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and telephone number of the writer included. Letters can be e-mailed to [miltoned@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltoned@haltonsearch.com), faxed to (905) 878-4943 or dropped off at 191 Main St. E.

### Pud

by Steve Nease

