

Comment

The Canadian Champion

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Both sides to blame

With the National Hockey League being the first professional sports league to cancel an entire season, one wonders, what's next?

There's no "right" side. Both owners and players share equal blame for this fiasco.

Fans should consider how things got to this state.

Millionaire players have blindly followed union boss Bob Goodenow down the "salary-cap-or-die" road. They defiantly say they won't play under conditions that could limit their salary to \$5 to 8 million a year, but will gladly play in minor leagues that limit their salary to \$10,000 and take jobs away from others. They won't put the issue to a vote among members in the event the slightest crack in solidarity shows.

Billionaire owners have blindly followed commissioner Gary Bettman down the "cost-certainty-or-die" lane. They demand a hard salary cap, always being careful to avoid using that phrase, while admitting they can't control (or trust) the radicals within their group

from overspending. They require an idiot-proof system for problems they themselves created.

The fans — the ones who pay the players' salaries and fill the owners' buildings — matter not a whit to either side, a fact many fans are now realizing.

How else do you explain the fact that many fervent hockey fans aren't suffering withdrawal during this lockout? Where is the great public outcry?

Have fans finally come to the realization they have been paying top dollar for a product that has too many teams, too many players of questionable talent and promotes a style of play that does everything to prevent skilled players from excelling?

Hockey has always ranked somewhere between high school cheerleading and bass fishing on the U.S. popularity radar. Perhaps, as Canadians, we're seeing that our American friends knew something we didn't.

We can only hope that when the puck does drop again the NHL has a new look — and new leadership on both sides.

Our Readers Write

Bill C-38 isn't an anti-marriage proposition

Dear Editor:

This letter is to the creators of the flyer entitled 'A message to all Halton families' and distributed by 'Concerned Canadian Parents'.

I just finished reading your flyer regarding what you call the 'anti-marriage' law. Bill C-38 — which proposes to afford same-sex couples the right to marry — isn't an anti-marriage law. Claiming so and spreading propaganda stating as much is, in my opinion, both misleading and irresponsible.

The flyer states that allowing same-sex couples to marry, which is what this is really about, will spell disaster for the moral and social welfare of our country and destroy the roots of Canada's 'living tree'. Give me a break.

Making marriage more inclusive doesn't change a damn thing about the commitment made between two people.

If someone slightly altered the definition of love, would that change how you feel about your loved ones? Not a chance.

You can't convince me that anything would be different about how you meet, fall in love, make a commitment and raise a family because of a more inclusive definition of marriage.

Definitions are meant to be altered as societies change and evolve. If this wasn't so, only white men would be allowed to vote, be educated or own property in this country.

Women and other minorities

wouldn't be classified as citizens, but as property or second-class citizens.

The best way to find peace in this world is to not only accept but embrace our differences, rather than feel threatened by them. All people have much to offer, regardless of gender, race, physical ability or sexuality, and we all have much to learn.

If these people are truly concerned about their families, I believe the energy put into this issue would be far more constructive in a fight for clean air and water and healthy food for all.

These are treasures that are truly at risk, and worth fighting for.

**Karen Copeland
Martin Street**

My marriage won't be weakened if Bill C-38 passes

Same-sex marriage has definitely become a hot topic around Milton.

For the past couple weeks, letters to the editor have flowed into our office on the issue, and I'm sure we'll receive many more since Halton MP Gary Carr announced he'll be voting against the same-sex marriage bill, or Bill C-38, and our Tuesday editorial endorsed gay marriage.

While the editorial acknowledges that it doesn't represent the moral views of all staff, I for one support same-sex marriage.

I've read with interest in The Champion and the daily newspapers the positions on both sides of the fence and considered the arguments put forward by those opposed to gay marriage.

I think the most prominent is that the institution of marriage is the foundation of our society and changing its definition would detrimentally affect our country.

I'm not going to argue that marriage isn't important. I've been married for two-and-a-half years and value it more than anything.

I should also mention that I think churches definitely deserve the right to decide if they want to perform same-sex marriages or not.

But, I don't think my marriage, or society, are threatened if the government chooses to give same-sex couples the same privilege opposite-sex couples have.

These gay couples already exist. We see them walking hand-in-hand down the street or on TV. We may even live next door to them.

What will change if all of a sudden that couple is married? I've struggled to find an answer to this question for a long time.

I've also heard the argument that same-sex couples shouldn't be given the opportunity to get married because they can't have children.



*The view
from here*

with MELANIE HENNESSEY

This raises the question, what about those heterosexual couples that, for one reason or another, simply can't have children? Should they not be allowed to get married?

At this point in time, my husband and I don't have any children and are unsure when we want to have them, but we're still very much recognized as a married couple. I consider my mar-

riage every bit as meaningful as one with kids.

It's even been mentioned that changing the definition of marriage to include homosexuals could lead to people wanting to marry their dog, cat, etc... I think most people realize this isn't the case.

In a recent Toronto Star article, a Vaughan man said he opposes same-sex marriage because he believes homosexuals choose their partners out of "sexual sport or fantasy."

I strongly oppose the belief that gays choose to be gay. As someone who has a few gay friends, I'm positive they didn't choose to make their lives hard. If it was up to them, they would love to just blend in with the crowd, instead of being ridiculed, pushed around and, in one case, even pelted with glass bottles.

It's high time we remember we live in a country where equal rights are extended to everyone.