

# Comment

## Let's keep roads clear for snowplow drivers

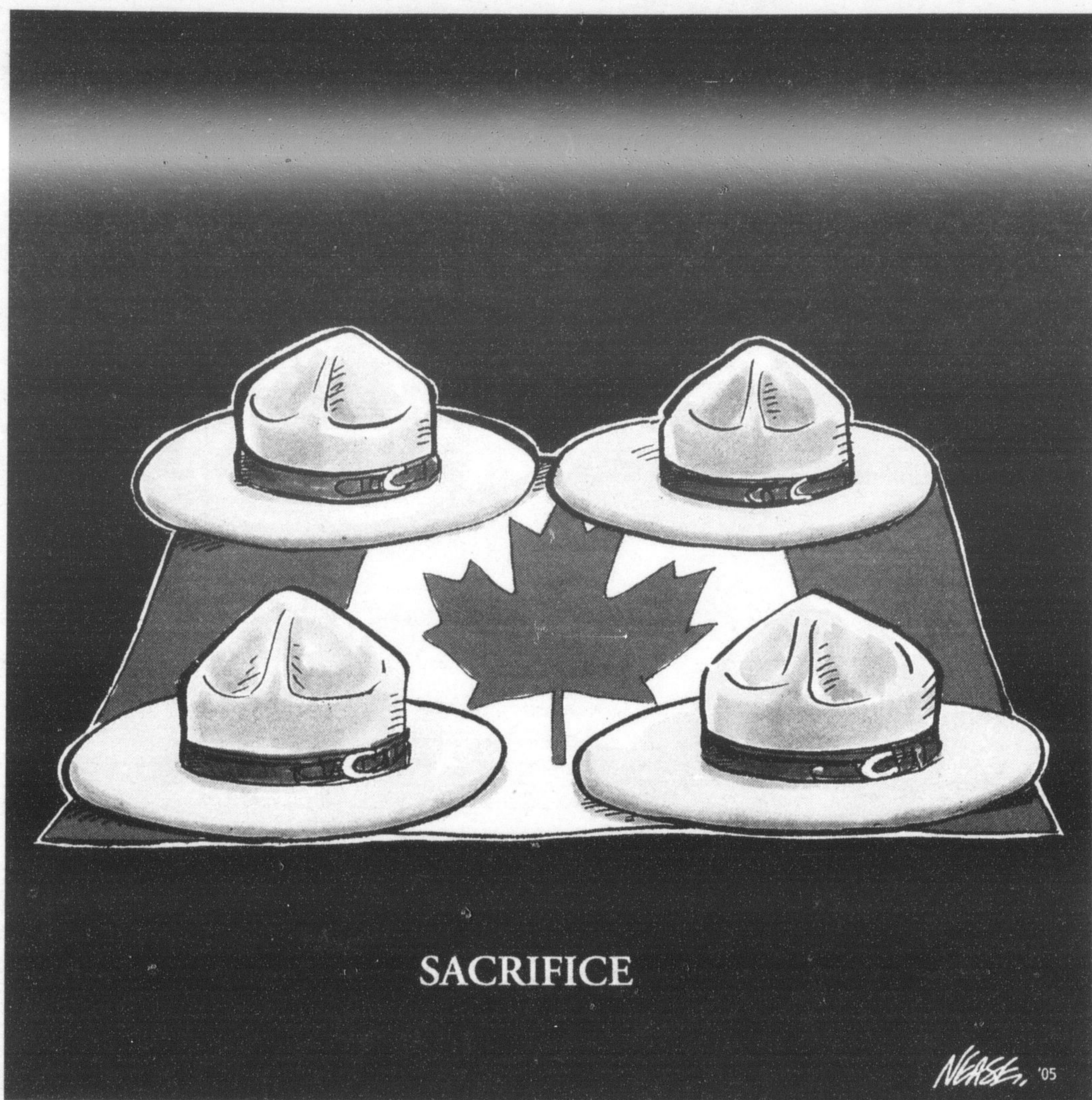
While most people shovel their sidewalks throughout the winter months as a common courtesy to others, there seems to be an aspect of snow etiquette Miltonians are forgetting about — leaving their cars parked in their driveways.

As you'll see in today's Champion in a story about reporter Melanie Hennessey's ride-along with local snowplow driver Chris Tonner, vehicles parked on Milton's streets present major obstacles for those who keep our roads clean and clear.

Although some residents may think it's okay to leave their cars on the road while they shovel their driveways, that could be just the moment when a plow comes by, giving the driver no choice but to leave a certain amount of snow on the street.

Also, as Mr. Tonner demonstrated, it's challenging to navigate a large truck with a plow and wing between parked cars, particularly on the narrow streets of Milton's new subdivisions, and it also slows the driver down.

So as a courtesy to those who work hard to make sure we can get down the street and off to work in the morning, please keep your cars in your garages or driveways.



## Our Readers Write

### MP's decision on Bill C-38 shows courage

Dear Editor:

In her recent letter to the editor, Lana Burchett expressed dismay that our elected federal representative, Gary Carr, would be voting against same-sex marriage.

However, I believe Mr. Carr has exhibited great courage and leadership in this regard. Whether it's his own personal conviction or the wishes of his constituents, or a combination of both, his actions reflect the true essence of democracy.

Same-sex couples, I believe, enjoy all the rights and freedoms of every Canadian. The right to call their union a

marriage, however, is the crux of the matter.

It's a very important and far-reaching issue that requires the careful consideration of every Canadian.

A few short years ago, members of the House of Commons voted overwhelmingly that a marriage was between one woman and one man, to the exclusion of all others.

I for one am happy that the democratic process is being upheld and respected, in spite of the veiled warnings of the prime minister to tow the party line.

R. Rosiello  
Milton

### Arguments against same-sex marriage in recent letter simply don't make sense

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to the letter from Stewart Haddon in the February 25 Champion opposing same-sex marriage.

It appears that Mr. Haddon is suffering from some fairly serious misconceptions about the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, its application to the people of Canada and the relationship between the law and marriage.

He's correct when he states that the Charter is in place for every Canadian. I find it difficult to understand how he's able to then go on to express the opinion that gay Canadians shouldn't benefit from its application.

He says that the Charter predated "this gay rights stuff."

Assuming for the moment that that statement was true, where does it say that an issue has to be old to be worthy of the protection of the Charter?

If someone were to challenge the law that prohibits child pornography on the Internet, would Mr. Haddon support that challenge on the basis that the Charter predated the Internet? I suspect not.

Mr. Haddon also appears to be under the misconception that the institution of marriage is controlled by the church.

In Canada, we espouse the separation of church and state as a basic principle of law.

Marriage is sanctioned by the state, which allows church officials to perform the ceremony. That's why a priest conducting a marriage ceremony always states, "By the power vested in me by the Province of Ontario, I now pronounce..."

That being said, I suspect that Mr. Haddon wouldn't be fiercely opposed to the marriage of an atheist heterosexual couple, who obviously wouldn't allow the church to play any part in their union.

Finally, Mr. Haddon's letter states — without explanation — that gay people are seeking "extra rights." They simply want to be able to walk into a town or city hall with the person they love and be married, something that heterosexual couples are permitted to do. I fail to see what about that is "extra."

If Halton MP Gary Carr is basing his vote on the type of faulty reasoning given by such people as Mr. Haddon, I hope that he'll reconsider.

I would encourage Mr. Haddon and others who think like him to consider these comments, engage in a bit of introspection and figure out if 50 years ago they would have been the same people who'd be unwilling to sit next to a black person on a bus.

Arish Khoorshed  
Ellis Crescent

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## Pud

by Steve Nease

