

Comment

The devil unleashed

Every time Karla Homolka's name is mentioned you have to wonder what goes through the minds of the Mahaffy and French families.

It's difficult enough for bereaved parents to move on with their lives, but for these two families it must be impossible.

As July 5 looms closer — the date Homolka is set to leave the women's prison in Joliette, Que. — we can't even begin to imagine how the relatives and friends of the slain teens must feel. Perhaps they have suffered so much that numbness now takes the place of anguish.

It seems almost unbelievable that Homolka has been behind bars for close to 12 years. The murders of Burlington teen Leslie Mahaffy and St. Catharines teen Kristen French remain so fresh in the minds of all Halton residents who followed this horrific case.

Homolka was sentenced to just 12 years in jail after pleading guilty to two counts of manslaughter for her role in the slayings of the two schoolgirls.

Leslie would be 26 years old if she was alive today.

Homolka's ex-husband, Paul Bernardo, was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. We hope this translates into an indefinite sentence.

But, unfortunately, society is stuck with Homolka. Even with their best intentions, we wonder how realistic it is to expect that police and government officials will be forever able to keep tabs on this heinous woman.

Yes, there will be numerous restrictions placed on Homolka. However, she will still walk free, be able to enjoy the summer sun, feel fresh air on her face and visit with family and friends who still wish to associate with her.

Of course, her victims weren't afforded the same opportunities. Their young lives are etched on tombstones. We feel for their families and wish we had words of comfort. Unfortunately nothing anyone can say will soothe their pain.



Our Readers Write

Closing Fourth Line a good thing in terms of ensuring safety in area

Dear Editor:

I'm responding to the letter in The Champion entitled 'Closing Fourth Line is stupid and irresponsible'.

Closing Fourth Line is a good thing. The cars weren't following the speed limit and big trucks were barreling down our street all the time, even at night. It wasn't safe.

I have some friends on Fourth Line who are five, six and seven years of age. They could have been hit by one of the cars if they accidentally wandered into the street.

I live on Fourth Line as well. Before the road was closed, I couldn't play in the snow near the road or ride my bike safely.

My mom kept worrying about me being too close to the road in case a car lost control while it was speeding.

And about concerns over the added cost of cabs, do you really think two or three more dollars or a few extra minutes added to your drive are more important than a child's life?

Katherine O'Hearn
Milton

Petition against development disappointing

Dear Editor:

I'd like to comment on last Friday's Champion article about two Hawthorne Village residents starting a petition to stop a nearby apartment and townhouse development.

I'm appalled that a petition has started to stop development of high-density housing. Moreover, I find that Cliff Bowers' and Chad Jackson's concerns are trumped up and invalid.

First they talk about environmental concerns, including the loss of green space, as they put it. Well, Hawthorne Village is already occupying green space. How would these gentlemen feel if Milton residents had opposed the building of their homes?

Also, the green space they speak of is an empty field that hasn't been used by anyone in years.

Secondly, they have concerns about infrastructure. I agree that perhaps the infrastructure won't be in place in time for this proposed development, but it will be in place once the James Snow Parkway extension and other improvements are finished.

In my opinion, this town needs to curb its massive urban sprawl, and the perfect solution is well-placed, high-density housing. And I would say that the southwest corner of Fourth Line and Derry Road is a good spot for this.

I believe that Mr. Bowers' and Mr. Jackson's concerns are not their real reasons for being against the

development. I believe they just don't want apartment buildings near them.

I believe they have an elitist attitude toward their neighbourhood. First residents in that area shot down the proposed bike path due to concerns over 'safety' — yeah right — and now these same residents are opposing development of apartment buildings.

I believe homeowners' property values will suffer little, if at all, with the development of an apartment building, and a lot of people would get new, affordable housing — which is desperately needed in Milton.

Martin Kay
Yates Drive

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, Huronia 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 Canadian 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 at miltoneid@haltonsearch.com, faxed to (905) 878-4943 or dropped off at 191 Main St. E.

Pud

by Steve Nease

