

Comment

The Canadian Champion

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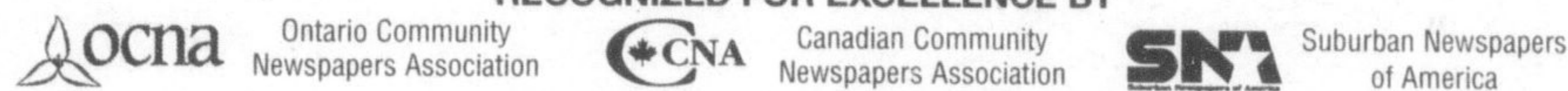
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Proud to be Canadian

Defining what it means to be Canadian is no easy task — partly because of the ever-evolving cultural mosaic of our country's population and, partly, because Canada means many different things to its citizens.

This is a land that affords its people freedom and democracy, the latter having been exercised in Ottawa on Tuesday with the vote on same-sex marriage.

While we're a country that favours peace over conflict, our men and women have repeatedly placed their lives in peril overseas when called upon.

Canada's roles in D-Day, VE Day and VJ Day are testament to our nation's willingness to fight fiercely when provoked, or when our allies are threatened.

Canada doesn't take going to war lightly. When the U.S. plunged headlong into Iraq, after careful consideration our nation's leaders decided not to send troops. It may not have been a popular decision, but it was a choice that defined Canada as a free-thinking country more than capable of saying no to its superpower neighbour.

Last fall, when the CBC aired The Greatest Canadian — a quest to find the one Canuck we admire most — the Top 10 finalists provided some insight into what

Canadians value most.

Of the final 10, four were politicians (Tommy Douglas, Pierre Trudeau, Lester B. Pearson and Sir John A. Macdonald), three were scientists (Sir Frederick Banting, David Suzuki and Alexander Graham Bell), two were sports figures (Don Cherry and Wayne Gretzky) and one was a bona fide hero (Terry Fox).

Being Canadian entitles each of us to develop our own interpretation about what it means to be from this country.

Whatever your definition of Canada is, today is the day to celebrate our nation's success and spend some time with others who value everything our great country stands for.

It's unlikely John A. Macdonald and the Fathers of Confederation could have imagined where Canada would find itself 138 years after four provinces formed a dominion.

If you consider yourself a proud Canadian, show it off today by raising a flag, singing the anthem or by discussing your definition of Canada with a fellow citizen. Perhaps we need to do this more often.

Enjoy our day.

Our Readers Write

Real issue seems to have been missed with regard to the closure of Fourth Line

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the June 21 letter by Joanne Rowe entitled 'Closing Fourth Line a good move for safety.'

I'm not sure people are understanding the real issue with regard to the closure of Fourth Line. It's not the actual closure of this road that's the issue, but rather the fact that Fourth Line was closed before any viable alternative routes were put in place. They should have completed the James Snow Parkway expansion before closing Fourth Line.

I agree with Ms Rowe in regard to the speed and unsafe driving that has been seen now due to the increase in population, but it's not

just specific to Fourth Line. And while her issues have been resolved by the closure of Fourth Line, in my opinion it has created more unsafe intersections in town.

Ms Rowe remarked about it not taking her more than 12 minutes to get onto Derry Road from Fourth Line. But of course it wouldn't, since she has access to a signaled intersection, where she can safely make turns. However, for many other people living in town who are using Fifth Line to get to Derry Road, it remains unsafe, and usually there's a line-up.

The traffic coming into Milton at rush hour is also very heavy on Derry Road, with people driving over the speed limit as well as driv-

ing aggressively and tailgating.

Don't all the previous letters about the closure of Fourth Line say something about this issue? There are serious concerns about safety and traffic in this area.

I think the Town and Region need to look at the traffic patterns and speed limits on the roadways and make adjustments accordingly to handle the level of traffic now in Milton.

Hopefully with the public information gathering and evaluations from Destiny Milton II, this will provide further feedback to the Town regarding the changes the people of this town are looking for.

Patty Norris
Babcock Crescent

A strong support system really goes a long way

I'm not panicking yet, but the other day I realized just how quickly the big day July 17 is approaching. It's only about two weeks away.

For those who missed my previous columns on the subject, I've accepted a media challenge in the 2005 Ontario Women's Triathlon Series.

Pitted against the managing editor of the Orangeville Banner, The Champion's sister newspaper, I will compete in the Super Sprint Triathlon July 17 in Orangeville.

Then we'll both do the Super Sprint Triathlon September 11 in Milton.

Both events consist of a 375m swim, 10 km bike and 2.5 km run.

Now, after just 13 weeks of training, which I started in a state of being somewhat out of shape, do I feel confident I'll be able to do well?

Honestly, I think I'll be able to complete it, but

I really don't think I'll be all that competitive.

So I'm considering this a warm up to the event I really have my sights set on — the Milton triathlon.

I've been doing all the training as required. Every day except Monday I'm out either swimming, biking or running, but I'm having trouble getting a handle on what it will be like to do them all one after the other, especially if it's hot like it has been.

One thing I have come to appreciate is the value of having a support system behind you when you decide to do something like this.

I've lost count of how many times my boyfriend, Frank, has gone biking with me to keep me company, or biked alongside me when I ran at night after dark.

There's no doubt Frank's encouragement and



From the editor's desk

with KAREN SMITH

companionship has helped motivate me many times when I really just felt like lying on the couch.

And my running and biking sessions with my new friend Wendy Somerville, who will also compete in the Orangeville and Milton events, have helped me stick to the program on many

mornings.

And it's not just about the training. We discuss strategies for the race and it has really been beneficial.

And then there's the people who read my column and take the time when they see me to ask how it's going. That also keeps me motivated.

I even have a little bit of a fan club of sorts. In my neighbourhood live the young grandchildren of a lovely woman I know, Elizabeth Kiddle. From time to time they leave artwork and notes at my door, cheering me on. It means a lot.

With all that going for me, I really don't see how I can fail.

Wish me luck. I'll tell you all about it later this month.

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