

Comment

The Canadian Champion

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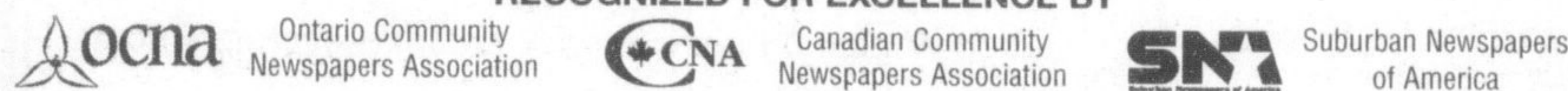
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Be your own censor

It's a film producer's dream come true. The real life person — upon whom your controversial movie is based — is released from prison a mere few weeks before the release of the flick. How convenient, too, that the world premiere will take place in the province that individual now calls home. It couldn't get any better, publicity wise.

Writer/producer Michael Sellers is salivating at the chance to release Karla, originally titled Deadly, at the Montreal World Film Festival later this month. He said he views the film's acceptance into the festival as a "positive development," and when you couple that with the media hoopla surrounding Karla Homolka's release in July, you can understand why we call this a publicist's dream.

Sellers has produced a movie depicting the relationship of schoolgirl killer Paul Bernardo and his sweetheart accomplice Homolka. Obviously the movie has been met with strong opposition from the families of the victims, Leslie Mahaffy and Kristen French. The teens were killed in the early '90s and Bernardo and Homolka were convicted in their deaths.

Sellers believes the film festival's decision to screen the movie validates his artistic endeavour. We doubt that the Mahaffy and French families feel the same way.

While we certainly can appreciate and understand why the mere making of this movie has angered so many Ontarians, we can't support it being banned from movie houses here.

However, that's exactly what Burlington MPP Cam Jackson wants to do through Bill 202. The bill, introduced by Jackson earlier this year, would allow the families of the slain teens to sue the makers and distributors of Karla for emotional distress should the film be shown here.

Jackson has long been an advocate for victims' rights and we applaud his tireless efforts. His heart is in the right place on this one, but we would be surprised if the bill passed. Cinematic history has shown that audiences come out in droves to watch notorious criminals come to life on the silver screen.

If you're disgusted that this film was made in the first place, be your own censor — don't go and see.

That action will send Sellers a message.

Our Readers Write

Expense of court reporter worth it for school board chair to continue his fight for change

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to all the letters regarding the controversy surrounding the Halton District School Board, which has included some criticism of Chair Paul Tate.

To start with, I helped in keeping Martin Street School open. It was an eye-opening experience. It took what seemed like forever to get through the gibber jabber and red tape.

However, everyone kept going and we kept the school open.

Up until then, I hadn't read or seen anything to sway me into another direction when it came to board leadership. Then I voted in Paul Tate as trustee.

He was involved in the change of

policy governance. I agreed with him, although a few did not.

Mr. Tate took steps to accurately record events in an attempt to circumvent alleged problems with original recording equipment.

I clearly saw his attempt at creating a more democratic board, and to replace what I viewed as an oligarchic one.

Then there was a flurry of letters between 'us' and 'them'.

There are some out there who, like me, have understood what we were meaning to do and that all the board's motions and delays have only strengthened our resolve.

Because I believe so strongly in the quality of education Martin Street School has provided my son,

especially after the crap the board put everyone through and after what I have seen Mr. Tate do in order to bring about change, I wish to personally pay for the cost of a court reporter — to the tune of \$696 — so that he can continue the mandate I voted him in for.

I'd ask anyone who wanted Martin Street School left open or who voted for Mr. Tate to send a loonie to the board. That way, the argument of 'money, money, money' will be taken care of and we can get back to the responsibility of taking care of the education of our children.

Scott Turner
Riverplace Crescent

Let's look out for each other during the heat wave

Hot enough for ya?

I'm sure everyone's been asked that question at least half a dozen times so far this summer, and with good reason.

The Region's health department has issued seven heat alerts that've spanned over more than two dozen days just this season, compared to the one that was issued for one day last year.

While this extra-hot weather has most of us complaining — and one co-worker who I won't name threatening to sleep over night in our wonderfully air-conditioned office — it can actually pose a very real health risk for some local residents.

The health department warns that even short periods of exposure to high temperatures can cause serious health problems, with those especially at risk being seniors, infants, young chil-

dren and those with chronic heart or lung disease or even asthma.

Besides the fact the heat can aggravate a health condition you may already have, it can also cause weakness or fainting, headaches, nausea, blurred vision, convulsions and more. In some extreme cases, exposure to high heat and humidity can even cause death.

Sadly, some people don't realize just how dangerous the heat can be.

Or maybe they just don't have the means to stay cool properly this summer, such as the elderly who may not be able to drive themselves to the air-conditioned mall or even get up to grab a glass of water.

These are the people we need to look out for and help as the temperatures soar.

It only takes a second to give your grandmoth-



The view from here

with MELANIE HENNESSEY

er a call or visit your ill neighbour just to see if everything's ok.

Local sports coaches should also pay extra attention to heat alerts, since strenuous outdoor activities can cause health problems even for the healthiest of people during these extremely hot days.

I'm sure most children and parents would

understand and even be grateful if practices and games are rescheduled on the days the heat is simply unbearable.

While this may sound like a no-brainer, I still feel the need to mention that dogs suffer from the heat the same way people do, so owners shouldn't leave their canine friends in the car during the summer.

Also, those taking their dogs with them on an outing during the heat should be sure to bring along some extra water and a bowl and allow them to sit in the shade now and then.

So pick up the phone, or take a break from sitting in front of the fan to check on your loved ones when the temperatures soar — it will only take you a minute and it could save someone a trip to the hospital or even a life.