

OPINION

Time to celebrate all that's right with this great nation

They're a world away, living in less than ideal conditions. They never know from hour to hour where they may be headed or if and when they will return. Their thoughts are often of their loved ones and the beautiful country that they call home.

As we prepare to celebrate Canada Day tomorrow we should all pause and think of the country's military personnel who are risking everything in an effort to improve the lives of people less fortunate.

This is not the time to politicize the war in Afghanistan. It is, however, the time to come together and appreciate the men and women who are continuing to fight for the freedoms that we take for granted.

Let's not forget, too, the thousands of Canadian peacekeepers who are selflessly working in far-flung corners of the earth to offer security and provide comfort by their very presence.

We can't possibly comprehend the living conditions — if you can call them that — in Third World countries. How could we begin to understand unless we have seen first hand the extreme poverty?

Yes, Canada has its own homegrown problems but nothing compared to the millions trying to eke out an existence in countries plagued by drought and disease.

Our country is richly blessed with resources and we have no reason to complain. We need to embrace all that Canada has to offer and celebrate loudly this wondrous nation. We are an impressive role model for how so many people from so many different cultures can live and work together.

Canada Day is more than backyard barbecues, social events and fireworks displays. It's a day to acknowledge all that's right with our nation and feel proud that this is your home — our home.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Let's all support our veterans July 1

DEAR EDITOR:

This is an open invitation to the people of Milton — new residents and old — to come out tomorrow (Saturday) to Victoria Park to cheer on our veterans.

There will be a brief ceremony at the Cenotaph before the march to the fairgrounds for the Canada Day opening ceremonies, starting at noon.

This would be a wonderful show of respect to the brave men and women

who — at a very young age more than 60 years ago — gave up the comfort and safety of home to fight for our freedom.

They are the reason we are all able to celebrate July 1, Canada's birthday. Hope you will join us.

LAURIE MACNAB
1ST VICE, SERVICE OFFICER
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Aroundtown

Thanks to technology, soon all will enjoy our new theatre

Finally, a movie theatre in town! I can almost smell the popcorn and hear the crunch of wayward kernels underfoot.

Who doesn't love the anticipation of standing in line for that certain movie you've been waiting for months to come out?

Recently, I received a couple of e-mails from people in the deaf community who weren't so quick with their excitement over the new theatre, which opens today.

They wondered if they, too, would be able to enjoy the movies thanks to closed captioning or if they'd been overlooked.

With Milton's large deaf community — the E.C. Drury School for the Deaf has 137 students in their secondary program alone — this was definitely something worthy of being checked out.

So I did that, and now have some good news and bad news to report.

Bad news first: There won't be anything in place for the deaf community until at least the fall.

I know that might be a big disappointment for many people, especially teens who may have been looking forward to catching some flicks over their summer break.

But the good news, according to Cineplex Entertainment spokesperson Pat Marshall, is the company is aiming for technology to be in place by the fall for the deaf and hard of hearing, and it'll be a new technology that rivals what currently exists — and often doesn't work — in some theatres.

Marshall told me some theatres are equipped with what's called rear window

captioning, in which reflected captions appear on a Plexiglas panel at the seat. Nobody except the person at that seat sees it.

Unfortunately, there have been lots of problems with the system, she said. So, instead of installing a faulty system in Milton, Cineplex is working on identifying a new system that'll have better results.

Cineplex hopes to work with some local folks in the deaf community to determine what'll best suit their needs, Marshall added.

Although it's unfortunate the technology isn't there now for everyone to enjoy the new theatre, I hope movie-lovers in the deaf community will be encouraged that they haven't been forgotten.



Stephanie Thiessen

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