

OPINION

National idiots

Since when did Canada Day turn into an excuse to be a drunken moron?

While the youths caught on camera urinating on the National War Memorial in Ottawa on Canada Day aren't the first Canadians to make a drunken spectacle of themselves on a holiday weekend, they're likely the first to do so on such a national, public scale.

Rather than settling for the role of 'village idiots', these youths are our 'national idiots'.

Unfortunately, their disgusting behaviour points to many unsettling trends in our country.

For many people Canada Day isn't a celebration of our country's greatness, but an excuse to get plastered.

The desecration of a war monument is also a sign of how little Canada's proud heritage means to at least some of our youths.

According to the Web site for Veterans Affairs Canada, the intent of the monument was to create figures expressing the idea that they're "alighting on the world with the blessings of victory, peace and liberty in the footsteps of the people's heroism and self-sacrifice who are passing through the archway below."

But somewhere along the way, the monument became a convenient place to hold a drunken party.

Unfortunately, this incident has sparked a call for increased security measures at the national monument.

And that's really a shame because each security measure reduces the public intimacy the memorial should have with its intended audience.

Hopefully these idiots will be caught and, with any luck, they will come before a creative judge who can somehow make the punishment fit the crime beyond the normal monetary fines for public mischief convictions.

May we suggest a lengthy community service sentence at a Legion hall, or a lengthy research project on the sacrifices made by the people this monument represents.

We would like to suggest throwing them in the armed forces for a couple years, but that likely wouldn't do them or the armed forces any good.



ReadersWrite

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

Initial support for a pesticides bylaw has been encouraging

DEAR EDITOR:

It was a most interesting council meeting June 26 with regard to the discussion that took place around a cosmetic pesticide bylaw for Milton.

It was a long meeting, and again we thank the councillors, mayor and town staff for their attentiveness.

We were pleased to be able to pres-

ent our petition in support of a bylaw to the Town. In the course of 11 days, we collected over 1,200 signatures in favour of a pesticides bylaw.

The opportunity for discussions with the public that this process provided was extremely encouraging. A clear majority of citizens were definite-

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Editor'sdesk

You might want to shop around for a marriage licence

As if getting married isn't expensive enough.

When I was making my plans to get hitched recently, a wedding co-ordinator at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort mentioned that the City of Niagara Falls' fee for a marriage licence — \$100 — was less than other municipalities.

That struck me as odd because I thought a marriage licence — a document required by the Government of Ontario before two people can tie the knot — would cost the same for everyone everywhere in the province.

Sounds fair, right? Not so.

When I went to the most convenient location for me to purchase the licence — right here in town — I was shocked to find out that Milton charges \$138.

That prompted me to begin a telephone campaign to see if Milton's fee was in line with other area municipalities or if the honeymoon capital of the world was just less out of sheer volume.

First I called Halton Hills and found out it charged \$115 — \$23 less than Milton. Oakville was next on my list — \$115 again.

Then I called Burlington and the price started going up — \$130. Then Mississauga — \$130. Then Brampton — \$130.

Then I got the best price yet. I called Hamilton and the cost was even less than Halton Hills and Oakville at \$112.

I had the area pretty much covered and the result was disappointing. Milton was the

most expensive place — at least out of Halton and neighbouring Mississauga and Hamilton — to buy a marriage licence. I wonder why.

The form is the same, but the cost to process it differs from municipality to municipality.

So if you're getting married and haven't purchased a licence yet, the leg work has been done for you.

I conclude the best place to go for a marriage licence is Halton Hills. It's not that far of a drive and you don't have to pay for parking.

You can save yourself \$23, and that could definitely come in handy considering all the costs associated with the biggest day of your life.



Karen Miceli

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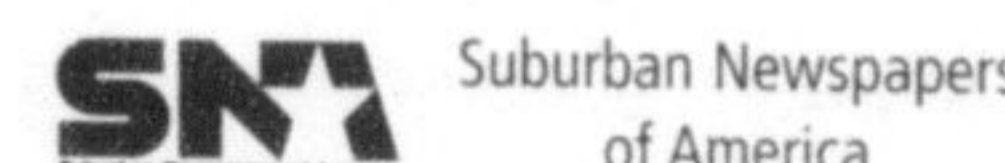
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