

OPINION

In the deep end

Where is the common sense? Where are the morals and values?

We can only shake our heads and wonder aloud as to what makes a parent continue to support a controversial swim coach who has, and we say this politely, a checkered past.

Burlington resident Cecil Russell continues to make headlines thanks to his involvement with the Dolphins Swim Club, based in both Oakville and Barrie.

Just in case you aren't familiar with this individual he has, in the past, been arrested for trafficking steroids and ecstasy and has testified he helped burn and dispose of a dismembered body.

While Russell was banned from coaching in

Canada in 1997 for his involvement in a steroid-trafficking ring, a Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sports (CCES) hearing last fall reinstated him.

Halton MP Garth Turner has said he's pleased that the federal government has decided to review the CCES' decision. He said he believes as an MP he should look out for the welfare of everyone he represents.

When Russell was reached for comment by The Champion all he would say was, "I'll leave it in the hands of my lawyer."

Quite frankly, the real decision in this sordid mess rests solely in the hands of the parents who have to decide if it's okay for this man to coach their kids.



ReadersWrite

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

Child's toy car left outside wasn't to be thrown away

DEAR EDITOR:

My family and I live on Foster Court, which on most evenings the five kids who live on the street play outside until that dreaded phrase uttered by parents is heard — 'Time's up, bedtime'.

Last Tuesday, after we cleaned up the kids and put them to bed, I went back outside to make sure all the bikes, cars, wagons and other toys were packed away until the next day's adventures.

My 10-year-old son Joshua is developmentally-delayed and doesn't ride his bike much. His cousins gave him a pedal car that he lives in while outside. He even has a wagon that he ties to it with a bungee chord.

Imagine my utter panic that night when I noticed the wagon parked at the curb next to my neighbour's driveway treasures that they were getting rid of in

the following day's garbage pick-up, but no sign of his beloved car.

It seems that someone who was looking for stuff had mistakenly picked up Josh's car that was still tied to his wagon and left with it.

Now I'm as guilty as the next guy for stopping and recycling stuff that someone else doesn't need anymore. I've even knocked on someone's door to make sure that they were really wanting to get rid of what was on the curb.

However, I don't understand how someone could mistake a car tied to a wagon for garbage.

I'd like to ask the person who mistakenly took my son's car to come and explain to him where his car went and why he can't play with it anymore.

COLIN GENIER
FOSTER COURT

Time for mayor and friends to move on

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is to add my two cents to the many previous letters about the lacklustre performance of our mayor and his council.

We as voters should never allow our politicians, at any level, to get too comfortable in their positions. We have the control to make them do their jobs. All we have to do is vote.

In my opinion, Mayor Gord Krantz and friends have clearly overstayed their welcome and need to pack it up and move on. Sorry Gord, you've had my

vote for years, but I believe you and your council just aren't doing what's best for Milton anymore.

We know you'll miss the grand openings, the flash of the camera and being a guest on morning radio shows. However, Milton has to elect someone who can fix the mess you created.

I already miss the small, friendly town that Milton used to be, and I'm sure many others feel the same.

Welcome to Mil-sauga everyone.

L. D'ENTREMONT
MILTON

Growth only making global warming worse

DEAR EDITOR:

We see what global warming is doing and it's not a pretty picture, yet we continue to add to this destructive effect by allowing uncontrolled growth.

It's akin to selling tickets for the Titanic after she hit the iceberg. We're just being plain foolish by doing what we're doing to ourselves, for we most certainly know what the effects will be.

Increased growth equals more homes, more cars and thus more pollution that leads to increased global warming — it's that simple. What we're doing won't only be felt in our time, it will be the legacy we leave our children.

Halton Region is now going through the initial stages of preparing to develop a 'Durable Halton Plan', which it says is building our future. What a future!

It says the region's population will double. This kind of growth will clearly lead to the type of development that will gobble up farmland, drain green-space and pollute our badly-needed water sources. With double our current population, we'll have more highways and many more cars on our roads that will double our pollution levels, which will rapidly increase the destructive effects of global warming. Growth equals increased global warming.

The Region says it's the Province that's forcing it to do this. If this is the case, we then need to stand together and clearly say enough is enough — we won't allow this type of self-inflicted destructive growth to happen in Halton.

In this regard, our regional councillors need to loudly represent those who elected them and to not just do the bidding of the provincial government. They must stand for what's right for the citizens, the wildlife and the environment of Halton.

BOB BEYETTE
CAMPBELLVILLE

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