

OPINION

Time for review

Canada's recent success at the Summer Olympics will hopefully alleviate some of the concern over our country's initial absence at the podium.

While we wouldn't call Canada's effort so far in China disappointing, this clearly hasn't been our country's shining moment.

The fact that Canada didn't have one podium finish a week into the Games raises considerable doubt about the way our Olympic team prepares to take on the world.

Many believe Ottawa doesn't spend nearly enough to develop our amateur athletes to achieve their full potential.

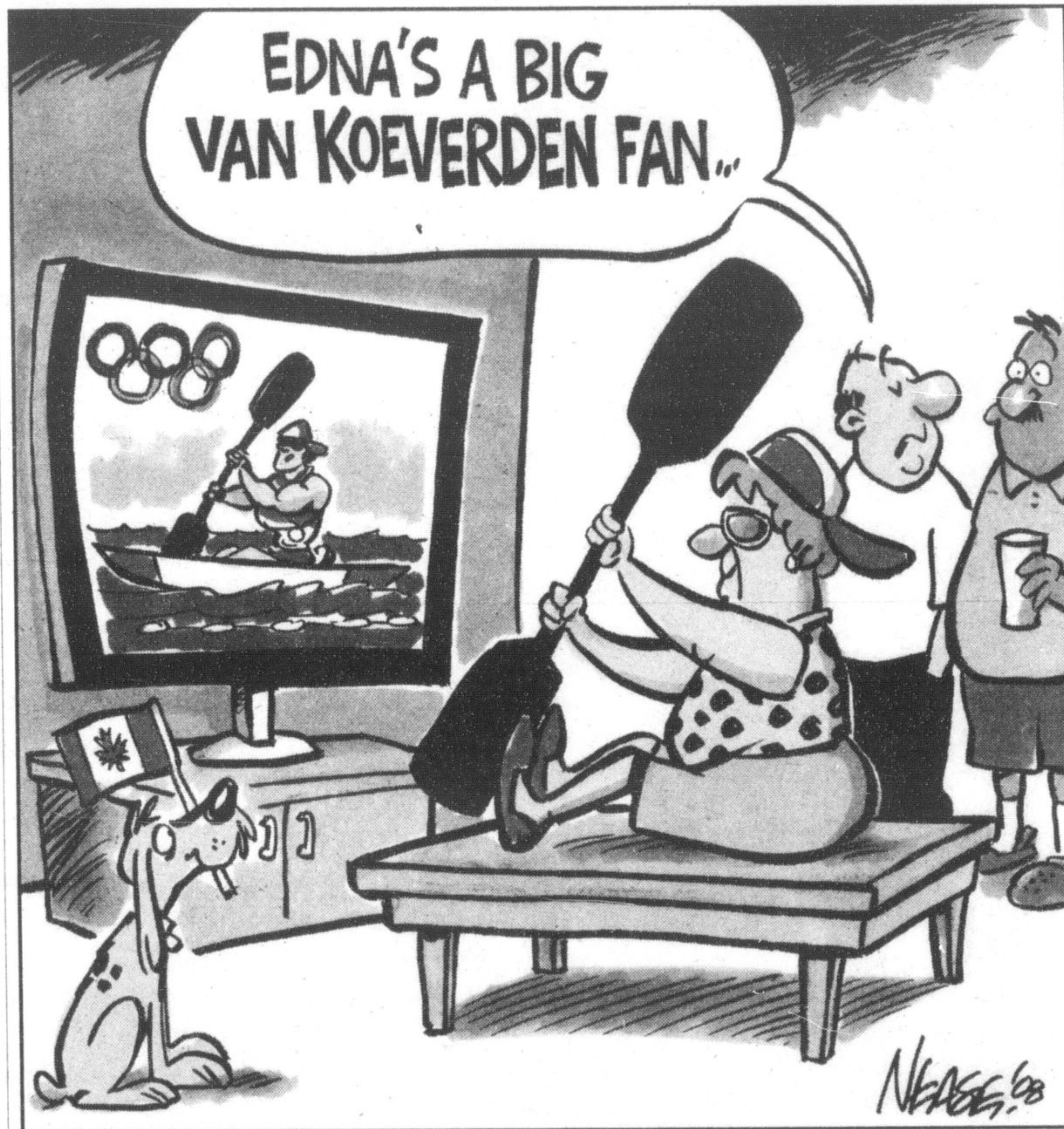
Others would argue the pursuit of the Olympic dream shouldn't be publicly funded, but instead

financially supported by a combination of corporate Canada and the athletes themselves.

While we fully support the ideal that sees the world gather each quadrennial to celebrate athletic excellence, we wonder if it's time to review Canada's Olympic mandate — especially if public money continues to fund amateur athletes' pursuit of the Olympic dream.

In light of recent reports that too many of our young people are becoming less active and struggling with obesity, supporting amateur athletes would seem to serve a higher social purpose.

Our greatest fear is that without more podium finishes, support for our Olympians will wane.



ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Milton Transit needs improving

DEAR EDITOR:

I moved to Milton a day before the new transit system was introduced in 2004.

For the first two years I used it sporadically to take a quick ride downtown or to the mall, as the 30-minute wait has never been something easy to plan around when you have children in tow.

For the last two-and-a-half years I have depended exclusively on public transit to commute to and from work each day.

Like most of the other regular users, I have had complaints about the wait times and connection choices to GO trains during rush hour. There are six trains leaving Milton every morning, but the buses only meet three of them, and the same thing happens in the afternoon.

But since the introduction of the new buses the service has

declined drastically. The new buses break down constantly. We can never count on the buses because, just like it happened August 11 with the scheduled 7:06 bus (Route 2: Holly and Laurier stop), it may never come.

As a clarification, Route 2 got as affected by the previous weeks' problems as any other route, contrary to what was published in the paper.

We hear everywhere that we should leave our cars in the garage and adopt public transit to help reduce the carbon emissions. This can't be achieved in Milton solely because our public transit isn't reliable.

For some, the problem is even worse due to the fact that they don't have a car to drive to the station if the bus doesn't show up.

We have been dealing with the whole 'chicken and egg' excuse from the people in

charge. They would like to have a bigger ridership before they can implement upgrades to transit.

At the same time riders would like to have consistent, reliable and improved transit before they can jump on the bandwagon for good.

There's a saying, "If you build it, they will come." The Town should take that to heart and improve the transit system so we can finally be able to depend on it without fear of being stranded at the bus stop for 40 to 60 minutes waiting for the bus.

I don't need the Town giving us free transit to apologize for not having buses when we need them. We need the buses to run on time, consistently and at a better frequency at rush-hour.

That would be the key to improving ridership.

**FLAVIA TARZWELL
HOLLY AVENUE**

Let's not be so quick to judge China's deception

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is in regard to the Chinese deception at the opening ceremonies of the Olympics.

Let's not be so morally condescending and judgmental of China for the vanity of replacing a child performer on the grounds of beauty during the opening ceremonies.

As despicable as the deception was, especially when considering the self-esteem effect on the

replaced child, the West isn't without sins and shouldn't be so eager to throw stones. After all, the West created and still holds beauty pageants.

There appears to be a need to find the slightest error in order to degrade the success of the organizing of the Summer Games. Is there a gold medal for jealousy?

**BILL FLORES
OAKVILLE**

Thanks to all for wonderful care of son

DEAR EDITOR:

On July 31 my son had his first and last taste of peanut butter.

Within minutes his face was discoloured and one of his eyes was almost swollen shut. I immediately called Telehealth, which put me through to a wonderful nurse who asked me a series of questions about my little one's condition.

The last question she asked me will forever ring in my ear — "If you look at him, do you fear for his life?" My answer brought an ambulance to my door within minutes.

After assessing him, we were whisked off to Milton District Hospital, where countless staff gave my little one the most amazing care and quite possibly saved his life.

In my frazzled state, I sadly failed to retain any names. If any of you are reading this and remember the little boy named Chase, then this letter is for you. The day after it all sunk in. A simple thank you doesn't seem enough.

I'm prouder than ever not only to live in Canada, but to live in Milton.

**CASEY ANDERSON
ZIMMERMAN CRESCENT**

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