

OPINION

There's no room for any division

U.S. President Barack Obama's message this week on the auto bailout was a no bull approach to the whole situation — your restructuring plans are weak.

He made it clear that the restructuring proposals presented by automakers General Motors and Chrysler aren't good enough to ensure their survival.

The chief in Washington has demanded companies offer up more, an opinion that's shared by our own federal and provincial politicians. Governments on both sides of the border have given companies and the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) union more time to come up with something viable, and our hope is that stakeholders will come through big time.

The union has indicated it won't budge on the issue of cutting labour costs. Workers, the CAW argues, have already given up a lot to help the ailing auto sector and we can appreciate that.

However, we also can't ignore the reality that not reaching an agreement could mean thousands of lost jobs in the auto sector.

Of course, the worker shouldn't be expected to bare the brunt of restructuring efforts.

Executives at the top of the corporate ladder also have a huge responsibility here in making sure car companies survive.

If those on the floor are required to sacrifice, then so should the executives earning the big money.

The point is, automakers have been given money and time to draft up a better restructuring deal and it's now up to all parties involved to make this situation work.

If the companies are to survive, both executives and union members have to strive for a middle ground. There's no room for division here. All sides have to sit down with a commitment to succeed.



MAKING TRACKS: Margery Saliba holds the *Champion* while surrounded by family and friends, including brother and sister-in-law Sandra McFerran, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Take your community newspaper on your next vacation and send your 'Champion Tracks' photos to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com. Be sure to include destination information and everyone's names.

Readers Write

E-mail letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com. Letters, which may be edited, must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

Turnout for vigil was heart-warming

DEAR EDITOR:

Thank you to each and every one of you who helped make Saturday evening's candlelight vigil a beautiful time to remember those we lost 25 years ago.

Mayor Gord Krantz, your kind words and help along the way will always be remembered by us all. And thanks to the Town of Milton for letting us have access to a power outlet.

I will always be grateful to the *Champion* for helping us get the word

out to all of its readers.

And to everyone who came out to share and sing, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. To the families who lost one of its members 25 years ago, thank you for having such an open heart and sharing with us all.

Each and every hug I got meant the world to me. I will truly cherish this vigil forever.

Thank you.

**KELLY SIMON
BRACEBRIDGE**

Upfront

Don't expect a vocal retirement from veteran CFLer

Whether or not Mike O'Shea has played his last game in the CFL is still unclear. What's certain is that when his long and illustrious career does come to a close, don't expect a vocal exit.

Recently released (2009 option not picked up) by the Argos and given a unique send-off roast — that included the retirement of fellow veterans Chris Hardy and Chad Folk — the 38-year-old Miltonian said he has no intention of publicly calling it quits. Of course, last we heard the 16-year CFL linebacker has no plans to retire at all just yet.

While admitting his leadership and on-field impact in Toronto weren't quite up to snuff last year, O'Shea believes he still has something to contribute, and will rely on a

core group within his inner circle to help assess his future value to one of the CFL's seven other clubs.

Addressing the possibility of retirement (a word that doesn't escape his lips lightly) at the 2006 Milton Sports Celebrity Dinner, the three-time Grey Cup champ said, "I'll be one of those guys that has to be told that they don't want me back. I'll be one of the ones who's asked to leave."

That comment is quite typical of O'Shea, who for all his passion on the field has always been very humble off of it.

About as down to earth and approachable

as anyone you'll meet — either in the public eye or out of it — the CFL veteran seems as comfortable helping out with Michael Jr.'s hockey team as he does in front of the camera.

With that in mind, it's hardly surprising that O'Shea will want to keep his retirement — whenever that may be — low key.

But with more than a decade-and-a-half and 1,151 defensive tackles (second most in league history) under his belt, it's hard not to pay tribute to one of the CFL's most respected mainstays.

Whether or not this is premature remains to be seen.



Steve LeBlanc

The Canadian Champion

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