

# Our Readers Write

## Catholic League wants national protest on abortion

Dear Editor:

We appreciate very much your photo coverage of the petition in the Sept. 22 issue of *The Champion*. The petition is entitled "Women-Sign for Life". Throughout the abortion debate women's groups, supporting abortion have claimed to speak for the women of Canada.

The National Council of the Catholic Women's League believes this is not the case and has encouraged each of its members across the country to gather the signatures

of women who feel the unborn deserve protection under the law.

Therefore this is not a strictly local initiative as suggested by your paper but perhaps one of the largest undertakings of the Catholic Women's League as a national body.

**Norma Reese**  
CWL President  
Holy Rosary Council

## Abortion is a woman's choice

Dear Editor:

The federal government has recently stated its intention to introduce abortion legislation this fall. Why is there an assumption that legislation

on abortion is necessary and inevitable?

Canadians should realize this "urgent call" for a law was brought about by a few coincidental and unfortunate circumstances; an aberrant United States Supreme Court decision, and a rash of injunction-seeking ex-boyfriends.

We are confident the Supreme Court of Canada, when it delivers its reasons in the Daigle case, will send the clear message to Canadians that they cannot stop women from making their own abortion decisions by hauling them through the courts.

Modern thinking on abortion, the world over, is moving away from focussing on criminality toward focussing on the health of women and their families. We don't need or want a criminal law. Pregnant women are not criminals. Abortion is properly seen as a matter of health.

There is no legislation governing other medical procedures; the decision for specific medical care is based on what is known to be good medical practice.

The decision whether or not to terminate a pregnancy is one of the most difficult decisions a woman has to make in her life. Ninety-nine point six per cent of all abortions are performed before the end of the 20th week of pregnancy. Women should decide for themselves the fate of their own bodies; their own lives. *It is a woman's choice.*

Even under Section 251 of the Criminal Code there were no gestational limits on the performing of abortions. There are good reasons why abortions are sought after the first trimester. Lack of access to the service may cost a woman valuable time. Money may be a problem. Young women sometimes do not

know they are pregnant. Amniocentesis, by which fetal abnormalities are diagnosed, cannot be performed until the 16th week of pregnancy, and it may take until the 19th week or longer to make a diagnosis, then comes the search for access to abortion and more delay.

The answer to later abortion is not another abortion law, the answer is access early in the pregnancy. Furthermore, sex education and birth control counselling reduce the need for abortion, late or early.

Parliament take note — most Canadians do not want another abortion law. Readers are invited to write or call their MP if they want to ensure that women's freedom of choice is preserved.

**Judith Allen**  
Lawyer  
National Association  
of Women and the Law

## Town to undertake major sidewalk program

Mon. Jan. 25, 1858, Milton West — Milton Council tonight initiated a program to improve this new town's dilapidated sidewalks.

There have been hundreds of traps, gaps, mud holes, incline planes, plateaus, protuberances and hillocks mottling our sidewalks for two years.

Trafalgar Township Council, our former municipal government, undertook some work last year but the quality of the work was so shoddy it was a matter of doubt whether it was

preferable for the people of Milton to stumble on the old crazy boards of the former sidewalk or submit to the new ones because of the manner in which they were laid.

Council's committee recommended that the new walks be three-foot plank laid crossways on a three-inch by four-inch scantling. The scantling is to be laid lengthways and the planks to be inch and a half.

There was considerable debate on the method of constructing the walks, as recommended by the committee. It was argued the walks would be better if constructed three planks wide with the planks laid lengthways.

After debate it was concluded the new walks would be laid lengthways provided the contract is not more than one-third increased over the original amount estimated.

New walk is to be built on Main St. to the new public school (Bruce St.); from Main St. to the New Connexion Methodist Church on Queen St. (193) and thence to the Court House square and then along the north side of Court House square to Brown St. A crossing is to be provided to Mrs. Noble's Seminary on the south east corner of Hugh and Queen St. (174).

The sidewalk approaches to the new bridge on Main St. are now to be completed as well.

A sidewalk is also to be built on the east side of James St. with a crossing to the west side at Mill St. and along the south side of Mill St. to Elizabeth with a crossing to Mr. White's (59 or 61) on the north side.

Council called for estimates on sidewalk on Elizabeth, on the north side of Main St. to the Concession Rd. (Bronte St.) That walk is to be four feet wide and constructed of two-inch plank.

Council also agreed to transfer their meeting place from the rooms above Alexander Murray's store at the corner of Main and Foster Sts. (Charles) to the John Martin Market House across the street (behind the old town hall). James Henson was paid \$90.10 for fitting up the building. Clerk Peter McKay was paid \$10.12 for firewood, cleaning the council chamber and moving the council furniture. A new pine desk and table were obtained for \$16.

The Mayor was authorized to have the town bell and belfry moved to the Market House and also the weight scales as soon as possible.

The Mayor was also authorized to rent the council rooms out to suitable groups such as schools writing examinations, concerts or others, to the best advantage of the municipality.

□ *Twenty-seventh in a series of facts, sometimes sprinkled with imagination, to reflect Milton's past. Research assistance by Jack Charlton and Alex Cooke.*

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## THE ONTARIO LUPUS ASSOCIATION

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#### THE ONTARIO LUPUS ASSOCIATION,

250 BLOOR ST. E., STE. 401,  
TORONTO, ONTARIO  
M4W 3P2 (416) 967-1414

**YOU CAN HELP  
BECOME A MEMBER  
VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME  
MAKE A DONATION**

General Meeting — George Brown College, Toronto  
October 22/89 — 1:30 p.m.  
Speaker: Dr. C. Ramsay  
Dermatologist  
Women's College Hospital