

# Our Readers Write

## Sunday shopping causes problems

Dear Editor:

It is easy for most people to think Sunday shopping is okay. It doesn't affect them and it provides a convenience we think we need. We dash off to the store, lured by "specials", without thinking about the long range costs we will all pay for that convenience.

The Session of Knox Presbyterian Church would like to ask people to stop and think about the issues involved.

First, the supermarkets' claim that the law is unfair is highly questionable. In isolation it might appear to be, but the supermarkets get volume discounts and have an economy of scale which small businesses do not.

If you were to ask small business owners about the issue, I am sure you would hear many complaints about unfair competition by the large supermarkets. We have to draw the line somewhere and wherever we draw it, there will be those just over the line who feel unfairly treated.

Secondly, we have to struggle with the right of a rich and powerful group to break the law, or to continually threaten to do so. We all have laws we don't like. There are legitimate ways to make our point heard. When things don't go our way, we need to respect the rights and views of others.

It is morally repugnant to do otherwise, unless there are extreme circumstances which justify such behaviour. The supermarkets' self interest is hardly in that category. If the rich and powerful are allowed to

flagrantly break the law based on self-interest, will we give the same permission to the poor and the hungry?

Thirdly, people need to realize that in due time they will pay for Sunday shopping.

First, we will pay in extra costs for our goods. We don't buy any more groceries just because the stores are open longer. So who is paying for the double time and the deep discount prices to lure us into the store. The answer is simple — we all pay. A cent here, a couple of cents there.

Secondly, we will pay by the loss of a common pause day. It's fine for the stores to say they have volunteer employees, but that won't last. Once everyone is open, Sunday employment will no longer be a choice.

The opening of supermarkets is only the thin edge of the wedge. If we allow this, then others will open and a large number of people in our society will be forced to work. The loss of a common pause day will have a significant detrimental effect on our families, our community, and our church.

Who will pay the social costs of the extra stress placed on individuals and families? We need to ask ourselves as a society whether we want to pay those extra social and real costs for such a small convenience.

Fourthly, we need to struggle with values being presented here.

Sunday shopping comes down to one thing — greed. The supermarkets see a whole day on which they cannot make money. To them that's such a waste. Isn't it time we realized there is more to life than money? We need time to relax. We need time for family and friends. We need time for God, to worship, to listen, to learn, and ultimately find the purpose of our lives in Him. God help us if we are willing to exchange these values for more money.

Finally, I want to encourage all Milton's citizens that we can do something. Encourage the province and the region to act, yes. But more than that, express your personal opinion and exercise your personal power by taking your business to a store which does not open on Sunday.

The supermarkets are morally bankrupt. Their motive is strictly greed. So talk to them in the only language they seem to understand. Take your business elsewhere.

Rev. Noble Dean  
Knox Presbyterian Church

## Elect-a-wimp

Dear Editor:

Inspired by indecision, mundane mentality, and swollen egos, our local decision-makers have once more contributed to the failure of our democratic process. The majority of people I have talked with and the many surveys I have seen clearly indicate the people want Sunday shopping.

Our provincial and federal governments ducked the issue by putting it in the hands of the regions and they are each waiting for someone else to decide.

I personally applaud the grocery stores and sincerely wish there was a method available to me to join their little tea party.

If our local council is not prepared to be responsible to the people that elected them they should be fired but unfortunately we have no method available for us to do so. We are told to vote them out at the next election but I don't want to wait that long and I don't believe elections should be single issue events.

Our politicians are obviously totally frightened by referendums and would rather spend millions of dollars debating Sunday openings, capital punishment, multiculturalism, and abortion, then let us have our say in what would be a truer representation of how Canadians want

their lives to be governed.

Like many readers I am for some of the above issues and against others and recognize they are not simply yes or no matters. Our current system is to me a failure and requires radical treatments as displayed by the grocery chains.

Patrick Kelly  
Coulson Ave., Milton

## Pulling book more offensive than book

Dear Editor:

As Grade 12 students of Bishop Reding Roman Catholic Secondary School, we are appalled to learn that J.D. Salinger's book, *The Catcher In The Rye* is under scrutiny by the Halton Separate School Board because it contains foul language.

As students who have read the book, we fail to understand why, after one complaint from a parent, this book has been pulled from our classes.

Granted, there are some words not everyone likes, and the book itself is not agreed upon by all students, we are, for the most part, not offended by the language, and can find many moral lessons in the actions and words of the main character, Holden Caulfield.

The board should not be concerned with the book's wording, but more with its content. Because we go to a Catholic School, we should not have our eyes and ears closed to the real world. To deny a student a book is to deny the opportunity to learn.

*The Catcher In The Rye* is a timeless book, dealing with issues relevant to today's society. Case in point, Holden Caulfield (the book's hero), by the end of the book feels that people swear too much. There is no real reason to ban this book; single words mean nothing, but the combination of words do. We should look beyond the single word to the collection of words.

The use of foul language by teens in general will not be stopped by the banning of one book. All teens say and/or hear these words every day

at school from their peers. If any member of the board would care to come down to our cafeteria for one hour, he or she would see what we mean.

Concerned Bishop Reding Students

## The flags on Main Street

This letter was written to the Chairman and Members of the Board of the Downtown Business Improvement Area. A copy was filed with *The Champion* for publication.

Dear DBIA Chairman and Board members:

My family has a strong appreciation for our flag. This summer my wife and I, joined with Canadian veterans, on a tour of Europe.

At the Canadian cemeteries visited, the sight of the Canadian flag fluttering in the breeze, gave us the assurance our young men and women have not been forgotten.

On our Sunday Remembrance Day Parade to the cenotaph, the marching veterans and all the organizations who participated, experienced heart-felt pride and a warm glow.

It was a magnificent display of Canadian flags smartly snapping in the breeze on our Main Street. It is a great credit to the DBIA to help in commemorating our annual Remembrance Day services.

The flags were such a thoughtful touch. I'm sure all veterans will echo the same sentiments. "It's nice to be remembered."

The Goutouski Family  
Campbellville

## Letters welcomed

*The Canadian Champion* welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters. Writers will be contacted in regard to revisions or rejections. Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included. Mail letters to *The Canadian Champion*, Box 248, Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9 or leave them at our office, 191 Main St.

# Pioneer developer, Hugh Foster, dies

Sun. Sept. 5, 1858, Milton West — Hugh Foster, a pioneer developer of this community and a cooper by trade, died today at his home on Foster St.

Born in 1794 in County Down, Ireland, he had emigrated to Canada in 1816. He established the first cooperage in Milton.

In March 1832 he and Henry Huffman purchased the 200 acres south of Main St. and divided the land with Huffman's immediately south of the street and Foster's south of that.

Foster St. (now Charles) is the town's major street running south from Main along the high land of the creek bank to his land.

Mr. Foster had great hopes for the development of this town. He had his land laid out in lots and streets setting the pattern for a large section of Milton south of Main St. As a good friend of Henry Huffman, the two worked in concert to establish the street pattern through the lands of both.

Shortly after he had purchased the original 100 acres south of Main St. he purchased 40 acres more of the Huffman land in 1838 to provide for the proper planning of the area.

In 1854 it was Hugh Foster who formally registered the plan of subdivision although many lots, particularly along the Main St. frontage, had been sold prior to that date.

In 1853 Hugh Foster offered the Provisional Council of Halton a parcel of four acres of land, as a gift, for the construction of Halton's new County Court House (new town hall and Victoria Park block). Council accepted and the land was deeded for that public purpose in March 1854.

The location of the county court house and new registry office have provided an important focus for the Foster survey and lots have been selling in the area since its establishment.

The death of Hugh Foster at the age of 64 prevents him from seeing the realization of his vision for the whole area.

His first wife Jane Coates who had emigrated from Yorkshire England predeceased him in May of 1844. He leaves his wife Sarah Ann Center and children Elizabeth, Thomas, Annie who died at 13 years of age, Mary wife of John Bowes, who died last year, and Nancy as well as Hugh Center Foster who was the son of Hugh and Sarah.

Hugh Foster didn't receive a free grant of land from the Crown and he can't even be certain how he chose to establish himself in Milton, but he expressed an entrepreneurial spirit as a businessman and a developer of our small town. He had a significant impact on the face of Milton and registered the first plan of subdivision.

His gift of land for the new County Court House and open space on the south side of the town has stimulated growth in a planned manner. Several of the streets recognize the names of members of his family, such as Hugh, Thomas, and Sarah. (Foster St. was renamed Charles St. by Council in the 1960s).

Mr. Foster will be buried in the cemetery (on Bronte St.). Friends may call at his home (approximately 147 Lydia St.) prior to the service.

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



Moments in History with JIM DILLS

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