

Our Readers Write

It's much easier for sportswriters to criticize than to offer to help

Dear Editor:

On page 4 of the May 18 issue of your newspaper you printed a full page ad proclaiming the fact The Champion is the "best read and best received" of the 19 Metroland Newspapers.

I wonder, then, why such a quality paper would see it fit to print drivel as Brad Reaume's column about high school baseball. Constructive criticism is one thing but an unrelenting tirade which includes gratuitous cheap shots at coaches, players and even the Milton Minor Baseball Association is something else again.

If I might be permitted to do so, I would like to address some of the points Mr. Reaume raised in his column.

Firstly, he stated he's "convinced that Halton high school baseball coaches don't know there are fundamentals." Does Mr. Reaume know all the coaches? Is he aware of their qualifications? If not, isn't that a rather irresponsible statement?

In fact, here at E.C. Drury, two of our coaches have also coached at the OBA "rep" level in communities other than Milton. Perhaps their teams won despite not being taught baseball fundamentals but, somehow I doubt it.

Having trashed the reputations of the coaches, Mr. Reaume then turned his attention to the players. While watching the games he claims to have observed "a litany of mistakes." Mr. Reaume outlined a list of misplays so lengthy and so damning that I'm surprised he was able to resist the temptation to stop play and come on to the field to correct the players right then and there.

To be sure, the game where I observed Mr. Reaume in attendance was far from a classic. However on any given evening at the Skydome you can pay "top dollar" and still be subject to "... uncovered bases, butchered bunts, failure to touch third for any easy force out, ..." Despite this, I have yet to see an account of a Blue Jay game which even remotely approached the mean spirited tone of Mr. Reaume's column.

Warming nicely to his task, Mr. Reaume

turns back to the coaches. Qualify coaches, he stated, would correct the aforementioned litany of errors as well as teach sliding, baserunning, pitching patterns and batting. Presumably, after practice, such coaches would work on a cure for cancer.

Does Brad Reaume not have a window in his office? Aside from a few July-like days, this spring's weather has been better suited to duck hunting than baseball. Practices have been cancelled, shortened, or hampered by the weather.

Furthermore, the Town of Milton doesn't even permit the use of its diamonds until May 1. Where exactly would Mr. Reaume have all this baseball instruction take place?

As well, Mr. Reaume informed us that one of the reasons Halton coaches are so unqualified is because "leagues didn't exist for the coaches when they were younger." Again, does he really know what he is talking about or is it "fast and loose" with the facts acceptable editorial practice at the Champion?

Finally I would like to remind Mr. Reaume that all the coaches he is so critical of are volunteers. Not one teacher coach, in any Halton sport, earns an extra cent from coaching. If Mr. Reaume feels he has something to offer let him volunteer his services. I'm sure any Halton high school would fatefully accept his assistance. Until he does so, however, I would suggest he be less critical of the efforts of others.

Sincerely,

Ron Banyal
Vice-Principal, E.C. Drury High School

Fundraising for Nassagaweya community centre didn't 'flop'

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter in regard to the article "Consultant hired to raise \$1.7 million for rec centre" which appeared in your Wednesday, May 30 edition.

As the former chairperson of the Nassagaweya Community Centre Fundraising Committee, I don't agree with Mayor Krantz's statement that it "flopped".

Over a period of several years a small group of dedicated unpaid volunteers devoted countless hours and energy to working with Town of Milton staff and council to provide a facility to meet the needs of the rural community of Milton (Ward 3).

When we began working with Town staff on this project, we had an outdated building, badly in need of costly repairs but its size was inadequate to meet the needs of a growing community.

After many public meetings, consultations with Town staff and elected officials and many costly delays, the project did proceed to completion. However, while all this was going on, building costs were rising which brought the final cost to a figure no one expected when we started.

You have to remember these volunteers believed the community centre was such a necessary part of the Nassagaweya community

and although they were inexperienced, they were willing to put their money where their mouths were. In doing so they agreed to make a commitment to raise funds and at the time of that commitment the figure they thought they were committing to was \$30,000.

It was only after further delays and escalating costs that the figures doubled as did the community's share. We did the best we could with what we had to work with and we're proud of our accomplishments. In our minds we did not "flop". We raised approximately \$30,000 for this project.

I feel as I have all along that it is unfair to keep comparing this project to other projects carried on in the Town of Milton (urban area). Each one should be judged on its own merits - you don't compare Ford Escorts to Cadillacs.

At the time our community centre was being built, it was overshadowed by the Hugh Foster Hall project. To this day I don't see why the two should have been grouped together other than they are both used as meeting facilities by the community. Don't get me wrong, I strongly agree with preserving our heritage but not so extravagantly spending taxpayers' dollars.

I worked for a number of years volunteering in the rural Milton community and now more recently in my present community of Flam- borough and I still find it rewarding. I believe volunteers save countless tax dollars which most residents aren't even aware of and Mayor Krantz and other members of council should remember that and choose their words more carefully in public.

Fundraising is an exhausting and thankless job. If a qualified unpaid co-ordinator cannot be found to raise the necessary funds for this latest, certainly greatly needed community centre then Milton should wholeheartedly agree to hire a professional fundraising company to get the job done before costs escalate to the point where taxpayers find it unacceptable.

Gord, I haven't forgotten all your help and enthusiasm at the mall trying to sell tickets. That's what it's all about. Everyone working together for a better community.

I wish Mr. McClory and his company every success in their endeavours over the next year and I hope Milton residents support him 100 per cent because through his success everyone will benefit.

Linda Lamont
Carlsle, Ont.

Wetlands invaded by monster homes

Dear Editor:

Friends and residents of an area of the Niagara Escarpment are outraged to learn that a proposal for a neighbouring development had been submitted for approval with Halton Regional authorities.

The property under review is situated south of Campbellville on Steeles Avenue West, with the Bruce Trail (escarpment protected land) directly opposite and Crawford Lake Conservation Area nearby.

Should construction of these 15 monster homes, on approximately 70 acres be ap-

proved, we will witness an appalling destruction of wetlands and animal habitat.

Furthermore, there exists a grave concern that the water table would be in danger of depletion and possible contamination of a small lake, which is of vital importance to our wildlife.

Let us put a stop to such acts of unmitigated greed or soon there will be no unspoiled countryside left, for us to enjoy.

Mary Lou Boyer
Campbellville



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