

Our Readers Write

Sunday shopping harmful to families

Dear Editor:

An article reporting the views of Halton North MPP Walt Elliot on Sunday shopping recently published in *The Champion* seems to suggest he has no real opinion on the issue.

He is reported to say "people will vote on the issue with their pocket-books." What leadership! What vision! What morals! He follows the example of the Liberal government, which does not want to take its responsibilities, but passes the buck to the municipalities, multiplying the problems and causing large costs to the taxpayers.

The issues of French language services in Ontario (Bill 8) and Sunday shopping are the latest examples in which even doing nothing would have been better than implementing a bad law and passing the buck.

Mr. Elliot and the government should make clear the difference between the myths and reality on Sunday shopping.

Myth: More employment will be created. **Reality:** Full-time staff will be reduced in favour of part-timers who are paid less and require fewer benefits.

Myth: It won't affect my family since I don't work in the retail sector. **Reality:** The ripple effect of Sunday shopping will impact on one-third of the work force; examples include police, public transport, service industries and daycare facilities.

Myth: Sunday shopping will be more convenient. **Reality:** In Alberta,

where Sunday shopping has been introduced, stores close early during the week so they can remain open Sundays. It is less convenient because evening shopping is curtailed.

Myth: Sunday shopping is good for the consumer. **Reality:** Extra labour costs, overhead and depreciation of equipment and premises must be passed on to the consumer. Sunday shopping means price increases up to 15 per cent.

Myth: Retailers will make more money. **Reality:** Consumer dollars are finite. Disposable income is limited. It will be spent in six days or seven.

Myth: Sunday shopping won't affect many people. **Reality:** Retail workers comprise 12 per cent of the work force. Many of them are women. Sunday shopping means no common pause day for thousands of families and the destruction of their quality of life.

Mr. Elliot, by releasing ambiguous statements (at best) just before the election is called is preparing for his own defeat. I am very glad that his statements are in fact helping to direct voters towards the FCP alternative.

Giuseppe Gori
Candidate for North Halton
Family Coalition Party of Ontario

Councillor unfair to truckers

Dear Editor:

I would like to know how the trucking industry "destroys people's lifestyles" (*The Champion* July 11 issue). Perhaps Councillor (Bruce)

Attenborough could enlighten me, he seems to be an authority on it.

I pity someone who is so small minded to have such a hatred of one of the largest industries in North America.

The trucking industry is made up of a majority of people who are hard-working taxpayers and are trying as hard as the next person to eke out a living in today's poor economy. Without the trucking industry, Mr. Attenborough, everyone else would not be able to enjoy their lifestyles.

How does he think "niceties" of life such as food, clothing, shelter would get to where they are. At one point a truck would have delivered it.

My husband is a trucker who owns and operates his business. He pays taxes the same as most people. He works long hard hours to earn a living and there are a lot of other taxpayers doing the same thing.

The trucking industry is one of the most regulated and taxed industries in Canada. The people driving those trucks are required by law to keep log books stating everything they do each day. When it is time for them to have their mandatory rest stop would he like them to stop on the highway and become a hazard? Does it not make sense to have an area where they can safely park or be able to leave their truck somewhere because they certainly can't be taken home and put in a driveway like a car.

I wonder if Mr. Attenborough has any concept of the reality of running a trucking business. If he knew what was involved maybe he would not be as quick to condemn. There are a few involved in trucking, whether in administration or driving, who should not be there but the same can be said for all professions. Because of his comments should I categorize all politicians as small-minded and large-mouthed? I would like to think there are some good politicians who have the wishes of their constituents in mind.

I feel sorry for Mr. Attenborough

for having to live in such a confined world and not being able to see the good in others.

Mrs. J. Bonnar
Milton

MS Society says thanks for help

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the estimated 50,000 Canadians who have Multiple Sclerosis to thank you for placing our Carnation Campaign ad slick in the *The Canadian Champion*.

Without your assistance in promoting our campaign we would not have been able to raise the much-needed funds dedicated to servicing those with MS and their families and to conduct new and ongoing research seeking the cause and cure for this mysterious disease.

Preliminary reports indicate more than \$1 million has been raised this year. Once again please accept our sincere thanks for joining the fight against multiple sclerosis.

Laurie Ayers
Fund Raising Co-ordinator
Ontario Division

Strawberry Fair helpers appreciated

Dear Editor:

This is a letter to acknowledge and pay tribute to all those who assisted at the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary Strawberry Fair on June 23.

Many Miltonians were involved — Larry Arbic and staff from leisure services, councillor Colin Best and daughter Christine, Drew Wilson with his father's truck, Philip Taaffe and the Sea Cadets, Brian Brady, Barry McKay and Peter Crewson.

Without their contributions of time and energy, we would have been in dire straights. When the inclement weather forced us indoors, everybody co-operated to move tables from Victoria Park to St. Paul's United Church.

Members of the Milton Pipe Band marched and played despite the rain,

delighting and attracting many to the fair. Dedicated Auxiliaries gave unstintingly of their time, determined to make the best of a disappointing situation. Congratulations to Hank Verkerk, who won the 50/50 draw and Sheila McBryde, who won the draw for the painting by Arnie Naylor.

To all those who worked so diligently and the vendors who braved the weather, our thanks.

Joyce Batt
Fair Convener, Milton

Room for student billeting

Dear Editor:

We are a group of students who are concerned about the lack of affordable housing in Metro Toronto.

A few months ago, we got together and devised a program by which students from outside Metropolitan Toronto seeking housing in the city might be able to obtain such information prior to their arrival. The name of the program is National Billeting Network (NBN), Housing Registry for students.

The method how NBN achieves its goals is outlined in a brochure. We believe, if homeowners are given the opportunity to choose a tenant without having to publicize their rooms for rent, it will motivate a greater number of those with available space in their homes to offer it to students.

The main advantage to both parties is that it gives students pre-arranged accommodation and at the same time, increases the income of the homeowner.

To facilitate students seeking accommodations within Toronto, our brochure will be sent to school boards and institutions across Canada.

National Billeting Network has recently received funding from the provincial government and is therefore committed to assisting students in this area. If you are interested in assisting us in this endeavour, please call us at 754-5377 or fax 477-5778.

Barrington Lue Sang
Director, Nat. Billeting Network

Editor W.G. Culloden leaves Halton New Era

April 24, 1863, Milton West — W.G. Culloden, who is retiring from the editorial chair of the Halton New Era, was honored at a dinner here this evening at the Albion Hotel.

A number of his personal and political friends arranged the event to express their approval of the manner in which the local paper has been conducted while under his charge.



Moments in History

with JIM DILLS

Martin, John Holgate, George Dempsey, Samuel Fleming, Finlay McCallum, Henry Watson, James A. Campbell, and W. J. McReice of Milton, William Chisholm, John Sproat Jr., R.H. Biggar, John Rixon and Thomas Rixon of Trafalgar.

An excellent supper had been provided and the knives and forks in readiness, the demolition of the viands commenced in earnest. The grosser propensities being satisfied, the real business of the evening came on.

After the loyal toasts W.G. Culloden gave a succinct account of his connection with the Era. He said there could be no doubt of his gratitude at being so entertained.

In conducting a public paper there were many hard things to be endured, he said, but such indications as this dinner brightened him considerably.

No doubt he has said some pretty hard things in the Era, but they were called for and true, he observed. They might remember the state of this county four years ago, just before he commenced the Era. The only newspaper published in Milton was the Halton Journal, which was under the control of one man, (John White the Member for Halton) whose object was to ruin the character of every official and public man in the county who was not prepared to worship him. There was no redress except such as was kindly rendered by the Hamilton Spectator for such things, but now a grand object had been accomplished; the style of the old Halton Journal, distinguished for its personality and scurrility had gone to the tomb and the presence of Mr. Campbell, the proprietor of the Milton Champion at the dinner demonstrated that hard knocks could be given and received without engendering low, bitter personal feeling.

Mr. Culloden's sentiments were cheerily endorsed by the company.

Then followed the toasts of "Her Majesty's Loyal Canadian Opposition", "the Press", etc which were admirably replied to.

The evening grew on apace and joke, song and repartee abounded amidst which W.G. Stewart proposed the health of William G. Culloden, expressing a wish that all the representatives of Canada were formed of such stern, honest stuff as Mr. Culloden had proved himself to be. Mr. Culloden acknowledged the compliment in his own modest and self deprecatory manner.

Mr. Culloden migrated with his father, Lawrence Culloden, from Ireland in 1833 and for a time settled at Oakville. He was a partner with John S. Diamond in the Oakville Sentinel before moving to Milton to edit and publish the Halton New Era in May 1859. During his time in Milton he has served on the executive committee of the Canadian Press Association. After his three years at the Era he leaves Milton for another part of the county in other business.

The happy evening was wound up with a toast to the "host and hostess" from the chair, to which James Lindsay replied in modest terms.

Sixty-fourth 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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