

# Our Readers Write

Moments in History

with Jim Dills  
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## Give Gori equal time and apology

Dear Editor:

Nervous. Uneasy. Intolerant. Impractical.

These are words Rob Kelly uses in describing the Family Coalition Party and their candidate Giuseppe Gori. I feel the same way about Kelly's "Viewpoint" in Friday's paper (Aug. 24 issue of *The Champion*!).

Nervous? I'm nervous that Mr. Kelly calls the FCP a "mix of church and state". It simply isn't.

Mixing church and state used to mean you were forcing your own denominational label on others for the purpose of career advancement or social acceptance. Yet I find myself in agreement with almost all of the FCP policies, and I'm as far apart from Mr. Gori religiously as can be. (I'm Protestant and I believe he is Roman Catholic!)

Sounds to me like Rob Kelly wants to keep the Judeo-Christian ethic out of the marketplace. That makes me nervous.

Uneasy? I'm uneasy that Mr. Kelly spends his commentary ink on the FCP's sex education and AIDS policies, but ignores Mr. Gori's environmental policies, and his experience as an environmental activist in Halton Hills. Wasn't the debate Mr. Kelly was commenting on about the environment? Even campaign workers for the old parties said Mr. Gori was "very knowledgeable" on the environmental issues. Mr. Kelly ignores that.

Intolerant? I find it intolerant to say you can "dehumanize homosexuals" with a policy which both is strongly opposed to homosexual activity and at the same time cares for homosexuals as human beings and proposes government-sponsored medical care for those with AIDS. A policy that is against the activity, but offers assistance is NOT dehumanizing.

Impractical? I submit Mr. Kelly's abortion position is impractical.

He says he is against "abortion on demand" but "has serious misgivings about denying that right". He calls abortion and Sunday shopping issues that "beg for a compromise", but offers no suggestion on how to achieve the compromise. Could it be that these are issues where compromise means caving in and sacrificing important family values?

Mr. Kelly definitely has the right to put his views on the FCP in print. He is fortunate to have such a privileged position at your paper. But if his comments mean ignoring what a candidate says and attacking his party, then *The Champion* owes Mr. Gori equal space to respond, an apology or both.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Wrigglesworth  
Bronte St., Milton

## FCP attack ignored environment stand

Dear Editor:

In general, the Family Coalition Party appreciates the accurate and fair coverage *The Champion* has given us in the current provincial election campaign. For the most part, it has been balanced and fair.

Because of this, I was somewhat surprised at the attack on the FCP in Rob Kelly's Viewpoint article in Friday's *Champion*. Mr. Kelly clearly doesn't like the FCP's policies. That's fine. But should he be both reporting election news, and openly debating the policies of the parties he reports on — and this on the same page of the paper as the "hard" news?

The Family Coalition Party is strongly dedicated to traditional life and family values, as indicated by Mr. Kelly. We are very pleased he included our views on these issues from our platform (condoms in schools, abortion) in his article.

We wish also he would point to our candidate's equally fine environmental record. After all, that was the topic under discussion at the meeting Mr. Kelly attended, and a topic he virtually ignores in his opinion article when commenting on the

FCP.

Thank you again for your excellent coverage of the campaign.

Paul Creighton  
Campaign Manager  
Family Coalition Party, Halton North

## Burning over incinerator plan

Dear Editor:

A few weeks ago, my neighbours and I were surprised to find that Halton Region had designated a site for a garbage incinerator in proximity to our homes. We live at Highway 25 and Halton Road 9.

Needless to say, we were feeling hurt and angered by the Region's plans, especially since the revelation came shortly after the Town of Halton Hills slipped in an industrial rezoning of prime agricultural land to accommodate the building of a cement block plant, also in the vicinity of our homes.

No one in our group knew of the go-ahead for the cement block plant.

The possibility of a garbage incinerator in Halton is unthinkable to anyone who is informed about the toxic effects of incineration on human health. Proponents of incinerators will say they are equipped with "state of the art" pollution control devices. The fact is the better the pollution control device, the more toxic will be the ash from incineration.

According to statistics from the U.S. Environmental Research Foundation, ash from garbage incinerators contains lead, cadmium, mercury and other heavy metals which when put in landfills, will eventually find their way into the groundwater.

Dioxins, formed during garbage incineration, are emitted into the air and have been found in ashes and even in the soils near incinerators. These have been linked to cancer, miscarriage, birth defects, liver disease, neurological damage and immune system disorders.

A 1983 study by the Canadian government determined that municipal and industrial incinerators are the largest contributors of dioxin to the environment.

I urge your readers to think about the issue and then inform our decision-makers that, like others in Ontario we do not want garbage incineration in Halton.

Let us not allow them to pollute our air and our water.

The problem of our mounting garbage can be handled by the 3R's which the Ministry of the Environ-

ment adopted but to which they paid only lip service. They are: reduce, ban excess packaging at the manufacturers' level; reuse, such as returnable bottles; and recycling and composting. We have made a good start in Halton; let us be willing to improve our efforts to recycle, begin home composting and reduce our garbage to a manageable level.

Carla Blasutti  
RR #3, Milton

## Garbage isn't getting a free ride

Dear Editor:

After reading about councillor Bill Johnson's remarks (*The Champion* Aug. 22 issue) regarding the "free ride" rural residents are getting, one concludes his opinion to be yet another fine example of the lips flapping before the mind engages.

Yes, we in the country do not pay taxes for garbage removal whereas the urban citizens do. It is also my understanding that the portion of taxes allocated for garbage pick-up is just for garbage pick-up, not for the depot and that all residents of the Milton/Campbellville area avail themselves of the same perk.

On a personal note, however, I'd like to point out to Mr. Johnson that some of us pay large tax bills because of our rural domiciles.

My wife and I, for example, pay just under \$3,000 in taxes, two-thirds of which goes to the Halton Board of Education. As we have chosen not to have children we don't get a direct benefit from our \$2,000 contribution.

Furthermore, and in a broader sense, we who have chosen to live in the country must do so accepting less than adequate police surveillance and snow removal and various other services our urban neighbours take for granted.

So now as well as subsidizing other peoples' children's education and neighbourly well being, Johnson would have us pay for the luxury of delivering our own garbage to the garbage depot. That's some free ride indeed. I think I pay enough to live here in the Milton/Campbellville area without the additional burden.

Regarding the abuse of privilege by citizens of other areas, let me suggest that since all of us are in our automobiles anyway, perhaps simply verifying driver's licences would eliminate the illegal dumpers.

Richard Begin  
Main St., Campbellville

## Abstinence is the best policy

Dear Editor:

In his "Viewpoint" column (*The Champion*, Aug. 24), Rob Kelly addresses the issue of condoms in schools and sexual abstinence among young people.

Mr. Kelly states that removing condoms from high schools is "irresponsible" and that "young people are (always) going to have sex."

North Halton Pro-Life supports the removal of condom machines from high schools and we are puzzled by Mr. Kelly's statements.

Research with young people (in California of all places) has shown most young people enter high school sex-education classes uncertain of their own views on pre-marital sex.

Fully two-thirds of them decide for or against pre-marital sex based on the content of the sex education courses.

Pre-chastity education leads the majority of young people to decide for chastity, while old-style sex education leads to sexual experimentation.

Allowing condom machines to be placed in high schools sends our young people the subtle message that whatever we say, we expect you will engage in sexual activity, so use this condom. The known condom failure rate is 10 per cent, according to *Canadian Consumer Report*.

Because of condom failure we will actually increase the risk of AIDS and teenage pregnancy.

In his column, Mr. Kelly notes the lack of preparation of one candidate for the all candidates meeting. If he is going to address pro-life and fami-

ly issues perhaps Mr. Kelly should also "do his homework".

Grace Steenhof  
Co-chairman, Halton Pro-Life

## Roadside litter not a sight to behold

Dear Editor:

The countryside around Milton is for the most part beautiful and interesting. It is relaxing to take a ride on the open country roads and admire the trees, the Niagara Escarpment and the wide expanse of open field, all within 10 minutes of the town.

However, on a bicycle you have a chance to make closer observations of the environment and all its detail. The perspective changes and you cannot help but focus on the tremendous variety of liquor bottles, entire garbage bags, the odd piece of furniture and of course the usual collection of fast food throwaways.

As you continue to ride you notice that the distance between items may be no more than 10 feet; McDonald's is the most popular fast food outlet; there is at least one large item, such as a tire or a broken chair, along the way; the east-west routes have more litter than the north-south ones; that some farmers have, unexpectedly, acquired a truckload of debris in their cornfields.

I recently returned from some biking in the Picton area of Ontario and the Lake Placid area in New York state. I saw the wide open fields, trees, hills and mountains, the lakes and the rivers. I saw it all within a short distance of two very popular tourist towns.

And that is all I saw.

Rob McDowell, Milton

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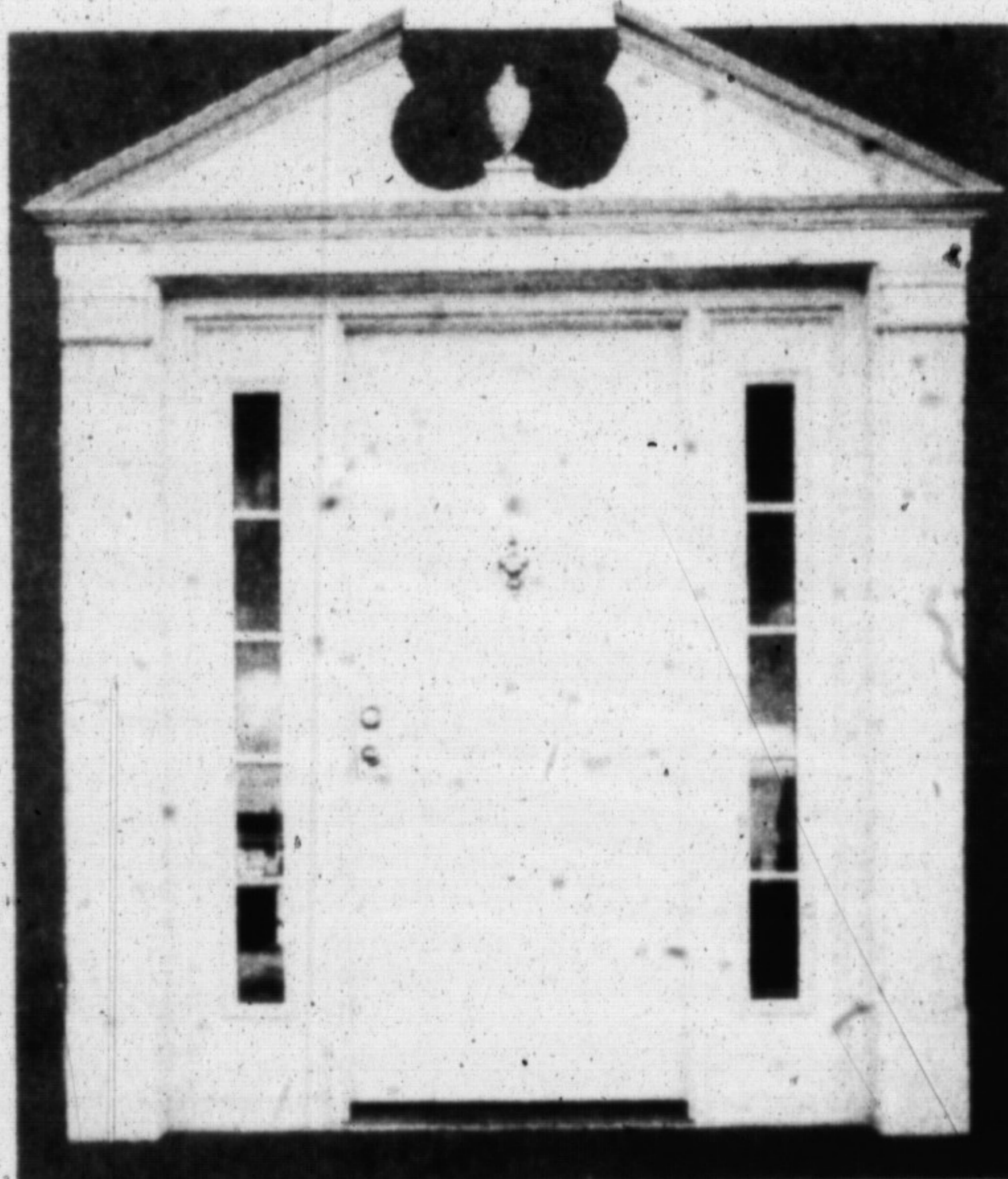
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