

COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Justice not served

Nobody wins in a court case such as the one that stemmed from the tragic car accident which claimed the life of 16-year-old Carly MacNeil.

But the recent probation sentence handed down by a youth court judge to a Milton woman who was sharing operation of the vehicle far from serves justice.

Because the young offender, now 18, upholds a reputation in the community as a scholar, volunteer, and an athlete shouldn't override the fact that her actions caused the death of a young woman.

Would the punishment be more severe or the crime more serious if the youth in question was failing in school and considered an underachiever?

The youth co-driving the car on the way home from Emerald Lake appears to have made a conscious decision to grab the wheel of the vehicle without regard for the lives that were placed in her hands.

We agree with the crown attorney's argument that alcohol was a major factor in the outcome of that day. The judge who sentenced the man who bought the beer for the group of friends thought it did, too.

An adult only a few years older than the young driver received 14 days in jail for the serious crime of purchasing liquor for the youths.

Although the driver operating the car from the console wasn't impaired in the view of the law, she herself thought she was — evident by her announcement that she couldn't drive home because she drank too much.

But she drove anyway, just not from the driver's seat.

We recognize the remorse the 18-year-old must be feeling. But we also sympathize with the MacNeil family which has been victimized by a careless act which caused an outcome that can never be reconciled.

She has a debt to pay to the MacNeil family and it should be recognized in the criminal justice system. A jail sentence in this case is the only reasonable punishment.

Time to pay up

Paid parking is coming to Milton District Hospital and its board should not have to make apologies about the matter.

It's a fact that parking fees will generate thousands of dollars in revenue for the health care centre — money needed to operate the facility. It doesn't matter how much we donate to the hospital Foundation, those funds can only be used for capital purchases.

The provincial government has limited funding over the next three years to one per cent in 1992 and two per cent the following years. Only a special "growth funding" allotment saved us from the parking fees this year. The hospital board will likely have no choice but to install the coin operated parking barriers next year.

It makes more sense to charge for parking than to cut staff and services. Paid parking is a hard sell however in a town where none currently exists. But this is also a town which supports its hospital.

There's no guarantee growth funding will be handed out again next year. It came as a surprise this time around and has never been given to Milton before. That leaves the hospital with two per cent more funds to work with than this year. Expenses are going to rise by at least twice that amount.

We don't want to see major surgery performed on the staff or health care services at our hospital. Cuts will weaken what we've worked so hard to attain. We simply have to pay to park.

LOOKING BACK



O Canada

Reflections was the title of a presentation at J. M. Denyes School in May, 1967. The play which included every student in the school depicted the country's history in celebration of Canada's Centennial year. Here, students from Mrs. Arbic and Mrs. Galloway's Kindergarten class dressed as Native Indians in a scene involving a member of the Junior Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The mini Mountie is Tracy Munroe. The Indians are from left: Shelly Lyons; Cindy White; Sherry Willey; Cindy Ryder; Janice Caine and Evelyn Twiss.

PAGES OF THE PAST

One Year Ago

From the April 3, 1991 issue

□ All's not fair in the DBIA, said the majority of about 50 downtown business owners. At a public meeting organized by the Town for members of the Milton Downtown Business Improvement Area, several local merchants called for changes in the way their levies are calculated. "I don't know if I can continue to pay the levy that has been pressed against me," said Ken Elsley, the owner of Shopper's Drug Mart in Carriage Square. The local pharmacist said he paid \$7,000 last year and faces a DBIA tax of close to \$6,000 this year. The Town collects a levy from all 141 downtown businesses based on their property assessment. The money is used to spruce up and promote the centre core.

□ More than 5,000 pounds of food was collected during a food drive run by the Milton Fire Department. Betty Zelinsky, family services worker for the Salvation Army, said the food bank got just what it ordered — non-perishable food items. A few hundred dollars were also collected during the drive.

□ Recent changes in Ontario's on-again, off-again Sunday shopping rules have triggered a sharp partisan exchange between two Halton politicians representing Ontario's NDP government and the ruling federal Tories. Halton North MPP Noel Duignan painted recent comments attributed to federal Revenue Minister Otto Jelinek, who represents Oakville-Milton, as a panicky attempt to divert angry public scrutiny from falling federal economic policies.

20 Years Ago

From the April 5, 1972 issue

□ A windfall of possibly \$11,000 fell into Milton Council's lap just as the town was preparing to finalize the 1972 budget. Council learned new unconditional provincial grants of \$1.75 per capita to assist in the cost of municipal policing would be introduced.

□ Bob McCuaig was elected president of the Rotary Club of Milton with Dick Copley as vice-president. The executive was elected to take office when the Rotary year changed July 1.

□ A notice of motion urging Halton County Council to press for tighter legislation governing tank trucks, the load they carry and the speed at which they travel was to be discussed at the next meeting of Halton County Council. Deputy Reeve of Burlington David Coons offered the notice of motion and suggested need for tightening legislation was necessary in the county due to the increased number of tank trucks using Halton roads.

50 Years Ago

From the April 2, 1942 issue

□ Fred Bennett has moved his family to the residence owned by Ms Hadley on the corner of Mill and James streets.

□ John Cannon, who had been employed in the Milton Dairy owned by Lawrence King for several years, has joined the Brick Truck Service.

PUD

BY STEVE NEASE

