

# COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## Why choose such risk?

It may be a truism that taking big risks can lead to enormous consequences, but most truisms spring from irrevocable fact. The sad tale of semi-public sex activity that culminated in a suicide reinforces the danger of playing with fire.

In Oakville, a handful of dozen men have been charged by police with conducting themselves unlawfully within washrooms in a public park. They allegedly performed indecent acts, homosexual in nature, and are being prosecuted on the strength of police testimony backed up by videotape.

One of the accused killed himself subsequent to the arrest. The man who committed suicide was also HIV positive.

A good many moral questions surround this episode. Should police bother using their resources in such investigations? Should the media, supplied ready access to the names of the accused by police, publish those names, now that one of those allegedly involved in what has been described as unsafe sex been diagnosed HIV positive?

Should the spouses or significant others in the lives of those charged be informed?

There are no easy answers to these questions. But many moral issues are relatively clear cut, and the moral choice is usually the toughest one.

Those who frequented the washrooms have a moral duty to be tested for the AIDS virus. They have a moral duty to inform their partners if they test positive.

We find it difficult to believe that anyone would flagrantly practice unsafe sex with strangers in a public washroom in the 1990s. That level of vulgar irresponsibility is disconcerting.

It is also reprehensible of anyone, whatever their sexual orientation, to cavort in a washroom frequented by minors, many of whom are to be found at the park in question. We're certain the more responsible members of the homosexual community share our distaste on these scores.

Anyone found guilty in this matter could well have exposed themselves and their loved ones to a fatal disease, for God only knows what reason. As well, they have compromised the efforts of the broader homosexual community to be accepted by the mainstream. And for what?

As far as the police actions are concerned, what else could they really have done?

We would be quick to condemn the police for any hint of prejudicial treatment against anyone, but their behaviour in Oakville does not constitute that. The matter was handled much the same as a prostitution issue might have been on downtown Toronto streets. That's fair.

One's sympathies should be extended to those who knew and loved the person who committed suicide in this instance.

But if, as police allege, so many have chosen such a risky path, in so careless a manner, we must ask ourselves, as they surely must now do too, why?

## Quick reminder

We offer just a quick reminder that police statistics show there is more impaired driving in the summer than any other time of year, including the Christmas season. Don't become a statistic in a police file or, worse yet, a doctor's file. Be careful out there.

## LOOKING BACK



A last minute review was given to four members of the Grace Anglican Church girls' auxiliary "court of fashion" cast by leader Joan Babb in June of 1968. Above are correctly dressed Donna Galbraith, correspondingly incorrectly dressed Debbie Babb, incorrectly attired Kelly Cann and her matching correctly dressed friend Rosemary Holland.

## PAGES OF THE PAST

### One Year Ago

From the August 12, 1992 issue

□ A violent thunder and lightning storm in Milton caused power outages, interrupted phone service and brought tree limbs down in the area. The power outages lasted half an hour. Regional police reported loss of "telephone and computer contact" for several hours at the 11-division station in Georgetown. The computer system at 12 Division in Milton was also affected. No injuries were reported due to the storm.

□ Milton's Glenn Colling drove his 1936 Dodge to victory in the Ontario Amateur Racing Club's hobby feature at Flamboro Speedway. It was his second appearance of the season in that car. John Fletcher, also of Milton, finished fourth behind the wheel of his 1939 Plymouth. Other Milton racers Justin Fraser and Al Haringa were involved in accidents and could not complete the race, however, they placed 16th and 20th respectively.

□ Two Milton track and field athletes took part in the 35th annual CANUSA games in Flint, Michigan. Steve Turner was first in the high jump in the 12-13 year old group. He also struck gold in the triple jump. Matthew Peers, in the same age group, placed second to Turner in the triple jump, third in the long jump and fifth in the 100 metre dash.

### 20 Years Ago

From the August 15, 1973 issue

□ The Milton Youth Council sold what had served as a coffee house and headquarters for that group for more than a year. The building on Nipissing Road was sold to John Tamai, owner of the Milton Plaza.

The group planned to continue to operate, holding meetings in community rooms or at the homes of members, and staging dances at borrowed or rented halls.

□ While plans were not yet finalized for Milton's new library, proposals were to provide library visitors with a better collection of records, a more comprehensive reference area, more space and generally a more modern and sophisticated facility than was presently offered at the crowded Main Street library. Plans included an attractive children's section, an area for story time, an area in which to keep a record collection, a file of clippings and pamphlets, periodicals, magazines and newspapers.

□ Members of the Milton Fire Department and Milton Fire Area Board were on hand for the delivery of their first tank truck. The new acquisition was worth \$23,000 and was able to carry 1,500 gallons of water. A new feature was a portable tank on the side of the truck which could be filled with water and left at the scene of the fire while the truck went for more. Dual portable pumps could also be removed from the vehicle.

### 50 Years Ago

From the August 12, 1943 issue

□ A bingo was held in the town hall by the Milton Fire Brigade.

□ A dance was held in Milton Heights School. Music was provided by the Bloomsbury Orchestra. Proceeds went to a cigarette fund for soldiers stationed overseas.

□ Residents of Milton were being reminded that Fall Fair Time was just around the corner and Milton's Fair was to be one of the first of the season.

## PUD

BY STEVE NEASE

