



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Doesn't like Knights' actions

Dear Editor:

Though some may applaud the Knights of Columbus' stand on abortion and their recent award for it, the very thought of their actions is, to me, reminiscent of the Dark Ages.

The days of men making decisions for women are over and to assume that their mock cemetery display last year was accepted by every citizen of Milton is not only ludicrous, but very naive.

When will men realize that this is the 1990s and that women no longer need their direction, nor ask for it? This is an agonizing decision for most women, not one made on a whim. It is time men realized this.

If we are to target one group of society, then maybe we should also target a few others. Why are women and their choices always the focus of demonstrations and protests? If the Knights of Columbus are so eager to make a point, then other target groups should be taken into consideration.

I would like to see a cross erected for every priest accused of or charged with molesting children. Next, a cross erected for every couple engaged in premarital sex or using birth control — two acts not condoned by the Catholic Church. And finally, getting back to the original cause of the Knights, maybe you should have placed a star on every cross that represented an abortion procedure performed on a member of the Catholic Church. Because of the aforementioned restrictions on premarital sex and birth control, many women in the Catholic Church probably use this method rather than face the wrath and condemnation of the church, as well as members of the Knights of Columbus.

Their reference to community support seems to me to be largely inflated. In my large circle of associates, I did not meet one person who was in agreement with that rather chauvinistic view on abortion. In fact, many of my Catholic friends were offended and annoyed that in this day and age such displays still take place.

I abhor vandalism but in this case it seemed fit, as to me, the erection of those crosses was vandalism against my body and the bodies of many other women in our community.

My final word to the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church is — butt out! When your 15-year-old daughter comes to you pregnant, suddenly things will appear in a different light and you can erect a cross to represent all the Knights and members of the Catholic Church who changed their minds.

As for viewing abortion as a serious crime, let's concentrate on the real crimes in our society.

I do not congratulate you on receiving your award.

Lindsay Johnston
Milton

Some ideas for Mill Pond

Dear Editor:

Having lived beside the Milton Mill Pond for almost 60 years, I feel I must protest its deplorable condition this spring and summer. What should be a jewel in the core of our town has become a disgusting eyesore. Every day I see more and more people strolling through the improved Livingston Park and along the pond bank. They deserve a clear

blue pond to enjoy, not a viscous expanse of mud-coloured water clogged with hideous and foul vegetation.

In the early years of this century, trainloads of picnickers came from Toronto to spend the day in Livingston Park. Boats were available and early postcards show views of rowers on Lake Martin, as the clear and sparkling pond was called.

The inlet creek was wider, deeper, and easily able to accommodate more than two rowboats side by side. Now it is clogged with debris and only a few inches deep. The pond itself looks like you could walk on it or at least jump from one island of rotting vegetation to the next.

It is time the Mill Pond Committee appointed by the town got their act together and solved this problem. Instead, fuzzy thinking seems to prevail.

Consultants to the committee seem to be working on a false premise,

treating the pond and its inlet channel as marshlands like Cootes Paradise in Hamilton Harbour. The pond was excavated over 160 years ago, and it and its intake stream are artificial bodies. The only vegetation needed in the pond are the arrowheads, iris and other aquatic plants that have always grown along its banks. The inlet channel should be free of vegetation.

Instead, it is proposed that more vegetation, namely bur-reed, be planted. The turbidity in the pond is blamed on the carp and it is suggested that the pond be drained so they can be removed.

Let's stop now before we ruin such a valuable asset as the pond, or indeed create a swamp in the centre of Milton.

Keep a natural look, but be realistic and realize that such man-made bodies need help from man as well as nature to maintain them. Increase the

flow of water, and control the vegetation. Properly functioning intake and discharge gates can achieve the first.

As for the second, for many years chemicals were used to keep the pond weed and algae-free. Today that is environmentally unacceptable, but there is a safe and viable alternative. Natural organic compounds approved by the government are available at reasonable cost to control the vegetation with no harm to fish or other life, human or wild, or to desirable vegetation. Such a product would also speed up the natural decay of sediment (leaves, twigs) on the bottom which the consultants to the committee have estimated to be three metres or nine feet deep.

Thus we would achieve two things — improving the look of the pond without draining it and deepening it without the expense of dredging.

Elizabeth Duignan
Milton



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