



COMMENT

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Looking Back



Lively softball action involving 14 teams from across Ontario drew a crowd to Hornby Park in August, 1963. International Harvesters from Burlington won the tournament, defeating the host Hornby squad 9-4.

Flawed political judgment shown

Often legislation lags public opinion — the failure of Prohibition in the United States is a case in point — and often it leads it. The recently approved so-called gay rights legislation in Canada is an example of the latter.

The open question is, even as time passes, is this where Canadians want to be led?

Sexual discrimination against gay people is not one of the pressing issues of the day in this riding, and it probably is not in the majority of others.

Canadians by and large may not condone homosexuality, but they don't go out of their way to attack it either. So there seems little point in trumping gay rights up as a cause celebre, but that is just what Justice Minister Alan Rock did.

Mr. Rock has never been accused of being in touch with grassroots Canadian sensibilities or sensitivities. He was out in left field on gun control, and he's further out in left field polarizing people with his latest actions.

Now we're all forced to think, what does this really mean, in terms of marriage, spousal benefits, pension plans, tax breaks?

Whatever it means, it's likely to be tied up in the courts for years.

And while the majority of us would be ashamed to pick on anyone for their sexual orientation, a good many of us, probably most, have substantial difficulties in according a homosexual union all the legal and moral sanctions we do heterosexual marriage.

Thanks for opening a can of worms that was better left alone, especially in view of all our more pressing challenges, Mr. Rock.

— Rob Kelly

Well done, Milton

There aren't too many communities, especially those of Milton's size, where you could raise \$100,000 in less than two months, and turn out more than 2,000 potential donors for a sick little girl.

The people of this town did that.

They stood in line and sat around for hours on end just to sign up for a shot at having their bone marrow tapped to see if it would help Deidre Scholtz in her life and death struggle.

They quietly worked, both behind the scenes and boldly in public, giving, organizing, contributing to pay down the awesome bill due for bone marrow testing.

Last week those efforts paid off handsomely as medical experts found a compatible donor for Deidre. Her operation is slated for May 23 in Toronto.

Deidre isn't out of the woods yet, by a long shot. She still needs a lot of help and faith. But so many people in this town have done so much to give her a fighting chance.

They should take some quiet satisfaction in that, as they spare a thought for Deidre, in hopes that all will turn well. Events are largely out of their hands now, but what they could do, they did splendidly.

— R.K.

Pages of the Past

One Year Ago

From the May 17, 1995 issue

- Ward 3 Councillor Marion Howard took a leave for a few months to come to grips with stresses in her life. Ms Howard wanted to keep receiving all council agendas, but she wasn't going to collect any more of her councillor's pay. If gone longer than three months, Ms Howard's seat could have been declared vacant, leading to a byelection or a council appointment to fill the vacancy.

- A Campbellville woman's dispute with Halton Region revealed a potential conflict in Halton's new Official Plan, which preserved historic areas but called for future Guelph Line widening. Sylvia Bursey took a two-year dispute about a building that sat both on her property and on a regional road allowance to the planning and public works committee. The issue was deferred to the fall.

- Springridge Farm held its annual Mothers Against Drunk Driving fundraiser. A trout fishing derby for children was the highlight of the two-day event, which also included craft displays, face painting and wagon rides.

20 Years Ago

From the May 19, 1976 issue

- Police and Maplehurst officers gathered at Rattlesnake Point Park to compare notes on a search of the escarpment

area after a Maplehurst inmate escaped. The young man got free while a jail work party was clearing forest lands on Appleby Line across the road from Rattlesnake Point.

- A proposal to develop a joint landfill site for Halton and Peel regions in the Hornby area fell through. Preliminary investigation of the site convinced Peel officials that it wasn't appropriate.

- Kerry Traynor of Holy Rosary School was presented a certificate of merit and cheque by Milton Fire Chief A. E. Clement and Assistant Deputy Chief Jim Coulson for her entry in the firefighters' poster competition on fire prevention. She also won an honorable mention for all of Ontario.

50 Years Ago

From the May 16, 1946 issue

- Halton was only allowed one representative at the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. It was the boy who received the highest number of points in judging and who also coached a team. Two girls who had the highest points at Achievement Day were also to go on a trip through New York State.

- The ladies of Hornby Women's Institute held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. S. Leramont with Mrs. Milton Brown presiding. Mrs. Clements was the guest speaker who spoke on citizenship.

- Addresses by Mrs. J. E. Whitelock and Mrs. Frank Ford highlighted a Omagh Women's Institute meeting held at the home of Mrs. W. P. Bayley.

Pud

by Steve Nease

