



# OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, June 19, 1996

## Union employees blast Catholic board cutbacks

Dear Editor:

At the meeting of April 30, 1996, the Halton Roman Catholic School Board passed a budget that raised the mill rate of Catholic taxpayers by 1.9 per cent for an increase in revenue of \$1 million. Staff layoffs were factored into this budget. The board elected to layoff 10 per cent of CUPE Local 3166, clerical, secretarial and technical Employees and reduce the hours of work for a further 28 per cent of our membership, netting the board a savings of \$280,000. This budget included raises for each superintendent of \$8,000 to \$11,000 per year.

CUPE Local 3166 questions the economic feasibility of this decision. In the past decade statistics clearly indicate that corporations adopting this slash and burn philosophy have not prospered, while corporations which maintained their work force have, in the end, been more competitive and provide superior quality services.

The members of Local 3166 answer the phone when the taxpayer calls. We are the secretaries in the schools your child attends. We are the front line people who meet, greet, comfort, inform and assist. We are the cogs that make the big wheel turn. While laying off these workers the board did not eliminate one senior staff position.

This board has adopted a completely callous attitude towards their employees and created a hostile atmosphere for their workers. We no longer have a caring Christian community in which to work. The Catholic taxpayers of Halton should take a good hard look at exactly where their tax dollars are being spent and respond appropriately.

*Kathleen Langdon, Natalie-Bezina, Arlene Mascolo, Chris Miles, Huguette Stafford, Emma Trapani, Bonnie Duimstra, Pat Jacobs; The executive of Local 3166*

## Seeks family information

Dear Editor:

I am the granddaughter of Mary Elizabeth Ryder from Georgetown, Ontario. In 1934, she married a northern Irishman by the name of Samuel McBurney, who had been working in Hillsburgh, and after the birth of their first child Agnes, she moved back to Northern Ireland.

Mary's mother was called Harriet Burnett and her father Sidney Ryder, also from Georgetown. I believe Sidney was a soldier who died sometime around 1920. He may have had two sisters called Ellen and Myrtle, and their parents may have been Mary and Hugh Ryder.

I would like to correspond with anyone who knows anything about this Ryder family or who thinks they may be related in any way. Any details are valuable.

*Valerie Loudan  
46 Gosford Gardens  
Markethill, Co. Armagh  
Northern Ireland*

youth.

At the same time arguments were probably presented against the idea on the basis that youth would either not use it, or it would be trashed through vandalism.

On behalf of the parents whose children spend every available moment on these courts, we would like to thank the person with the idea and those who provided support for the expenditure.

Big and small, talented in the sport or not, all participate in it. New friendships, camaraderie or just being together — it is all happening on these courts.

For those who want to see their community investment at work, drop by a court like the one at John Tonelli arena and see.

"Build it and they will come".... they certainly have.... and we are all better for it.

*Gary and Nova Sparks-Austin  
Milton*

## Former Milton resident finds her long lost family

Dear Editor:

As a former resident (of Gowland Crescent) please allow me to tell all my old friends and neighbours that I have finally found the sister I have not seen for 42 years, as well as my whole biological family — three sisters, three brothers, three half siblings, and my mother. (I had been

adopted at age eight).

This came about through a letter to the editor of the Fredericton, New Brunswick Gleaner, the first of many letters I sent to newspapers across the country.

My search ended with that first letter, which had been hand delivered by a friend who lives in that area I never dreamt that my family also lived there. This is a testament to the power of the press.

By coincidence, my adoptive family had already booked a cottage in that area for the summer, and I was to fly down to see them. I'll now be having a reunion with my newfound family, as well as having them meet my parents.

Thank you for letting me share my wonderful news with all my friends. Hopefully, this letter will give encouragement and hope to someone out there who is searching for someone else, and hasn't yet taken the first step.

*Diane Palmer  
North Canton, Ohio*

## Basketball net was a great idea

Dear Editor

At some time, in the near past, someone probably brought forward a suggestion that erecting basketball nets in public areas might provide a pastime for Milton's

## Letters Welcomed

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters.

Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included. Mail letters to: The Canadian Champion, Box 248, Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9 or leave them at our office, 191 Main Street.

The Champion would like to thank everyone who entered our

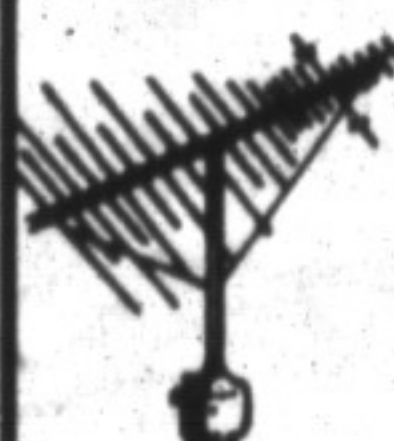
## Father's Day Colouring Contest.

Congratulations to the following winners:

- Haylee Drew
- Keith Hawley
- Brittany McGillvray

## MERV'S ELECTRONICS

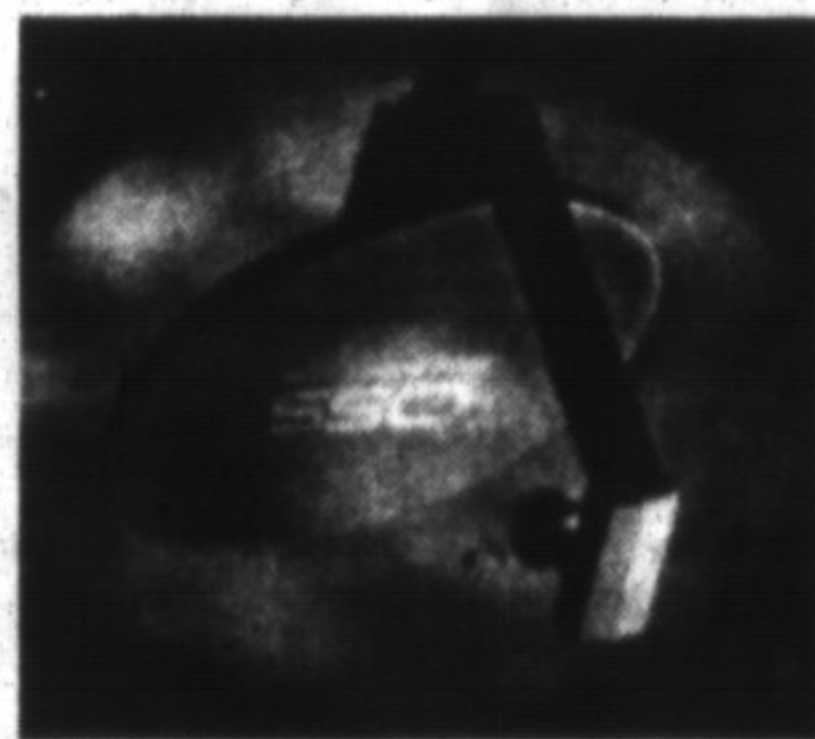
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