



# OUR READERS WRITE

7—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, June 26, 1996

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

## Huge effort for museum

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to offer what I believe to be necessary background information about Ontario's Rural Heritage Preservation Committee and our current position with regard to the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

ORHPC is a volunteer organization with a 29-person board of directors. The directors represent agricultural and heritage organizations from across the province. We came together through our common concern for the museum after the announcement of its impending closure; we are working together now to achieve our goal of preserving the Museum, the collections, archives, library and Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame. The committee is chaired by George Underwood of Wingham and the vice-chair is Wally Knapp of Guelph.

ORHPC has been invited to prepare a business and operational plan for the review of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, which we expect to present in fall of 1996. We are, as was stated in your article which appeared in the June 19, 1996 edition, holding three fundraising events between now and mid-October, including one at the Ontario Agricultural Museum on Sept. 14, 1996.

The intent of this event is to offer the public information about our plans for the museum's future and yes, to begin raising funds that we will need both to complete the planning process and to support our intention to assume management of the museum. Walt Elliot, a member of our board of directors representing the Milton Historical Society, is organizing the Sept. 14 event through the authority of the ORHPC board of directors.

The July 1 evening is organized by directors Carolyn McDonnell of the Beef Information Centre in Mississauga and Maisie Lasby of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, and a fundraising charity auction, being held on Oct. 12 at Bryan's Auction Centre in Puslinch is being organized by director Bill Ireland of Teeswater.

We believe that the Ontario Agricultural Museum is a valuable public heritage resource, and we are committed to ensuring its future in the interests of all Ontarians. We invite the citizens of Milton and area to work with us, to support our fundraising events, and to continue to enjoy the benefits having the Museum in this area.

Lori Jamieson  
Co-Chair, Public Relations, ORHPC

## Letters Welcomed

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

Writers will be contacted in regard to revisions or rejections. 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.

## Cancer Society proud of local effort

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Milton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, we would like to thank the many volunteers who canvassed homes, captained areas, sold daffodils, and participated in dress-down days during our April fundraising campaign.

The total raised in these events, \$65,871, is up 18 percent over 1995 and established a record high.

This gives Milton one of the highest contribution rates per capita in the province.

The Canadian Cancer Society is an organization of volunteers, which is totally supported by public donations and does not receive any government funding.

Ninety cents of every dollar donated goes to patient services, health promotion, and cancer research.

Our mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life for people living with cancer, through funding research and volunteer delivered programs.

Again, we sincerely thank everyone who made this campaign such a success.

John A. Perrott  
President, Milton Branch

## Reader says Elliot a solid volunteer

Dear Editor:

I wish to reply to your editorial, in which you question Walt Elliot's motives in efforts to save the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

Before Mr. Elliot became a political candidate and after his party's defeat, he was first and remains a concerned citizen. His conscientious and successful volunteer efforts outside of the political realm deserve respect.

I am impressed with his leadership and competence and his concern for Milton's heritage, quality of life, and its future. His energy and commitment are remarkable, and should be emulated, not questioned.

Were you being cynical? Were you altruistically trying to warn of the impending danger should Mr. Elliot return to politics? Someone suggested to

me that you deliberately wrote a controversial editorial to increase readership and sell papers.

In an effort to understand, I have read and re-read your editorial many times. I think you missed the opportunity to encourage a bold departure from party rhetoric in an issue where community interests should prevail. The Ontario Agricultural Museum is a valuable asset, particularly suited to the Destiny Milton vision. Its closure would be a pity and I celebrate that there are citizens who will become involved.

I suspect even the odd "longtime Tory" might risk censure to ensure the museum's future. Indeed, I hope that those claiming to be concerned with Milton will at least work behind the scenes if exposing their views is too dangerous politically, as you wrote.

Actually, wouldn't the effort of private funding be consistent with current government policies? It might even be brilliantly politically correct for current representatives to encourage and even participate in this partnership, should they wish to show an interest in Milton's future, not just Ontario's politics.

Cindy Lunau, Nassagaweya



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