



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Don't let this happen

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the article which appeared in the Friday, November 8 issue entitled "Public board balks at vets' poster contest".

Local war vets should not feel slighted over the board's refusal to promote the Remembrance Day poster memorial; they should be outraged at the triviality this day has been relegated to by one person, Bob Parry.

Mr. Parry states: "Such contests consume classroom time that could be better spent."

On what? The conflicts remembered each year are a part of history, a part of the make-up of our country. What better way to teach young people that at times extreme sacrifices must be made if you want to maintain a right?

He adds that they "wrongly create competition in art". The school system is full of competition and rewarding, all you have

to do is attend a school graduation ceremony and watch the awards being given out.

If the competitive nature is a real problem, why not sit down with the Legion members and ask "is there some way we can recognize all the participants, perhaps with a "Memory Certificate" for each child, for each year they produce a poster?"

In this manner everyone is acknowledged equally for their participation.

In return, perhaps the Legion could keep all the entries in binders for one year, or provide a display area at each school.

In the poem, "In Flanders Fields" there is a passage which states "If ye break faith with us who die, We shall not sleep though poppies grow in Flanders fields"

Policy such as stated by the Halton board is the first break in a fine link that is growing thinner as time marches on. This must not be allowed to happen.

Marshall Horner
Milton

Board stance an outrage

Dear Editor:

To say I was outraged by your cover story in Friday's edition is the understatement of the century.

I was staggered with disbelief that Bob Parry, a leader in the Halton educational system with as much control over board policies as he obviously has, could respond to the Legion's poster contest as he did.

It makes me very glad that my children are no longer attending a Halton high school.

Using the excuse that "Once general acceptance is given to one organization, it is difficult to say no to another," takes me back to the days of my youth. We all remember it, don't we?

"C'mon Mom...everyone's doing it."
"What if everyone jumped in the lake? Would you jump, too?"

No, mother, I wouldn't. I was taught to make judgements based on my intelligence and integrity. It is possible to make decisions based upon merit and not fall back into the land of no decisions at all. That's the coward's way out, Mr. Parry.

Perhaps you could check with one of your history teachers to find out that, as Edmund Burke pointed out, all it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

To fall back on the old chestnut, "We would wrongly create competition" is astounding.

It may interest Mr. Parry to discover that the Halton board sponsors an excellent athletic program based entirely on competition.

Halton traditionally does very well in the nationwide mathematics competition run by the University of Waterloo. Competition seems to be okay there. What about science fairs or being elected to student government? No, Mr. Parry, competition does not hurt anyone.

To the Halton board I say; I am ashamed that you use my tax dollars to provide this kind of leadership in our schools.

To the group the men and women who gave their lives for this country in with "fire prevention and home safety," is an insult.

To Mr. MacNab and the veterans I say; As far as the Halton board, and Mr. Parry, are concerned, you have failed. The motto for Remembrance Day has always been "Lest We Forget."

Apparently some people had no idea in the first place.

I. E. Jones
Campbellville

I am ashamed of the board's action

Dear Editor:

It was with sadness that I read the article regarding the school board's decision against the Legion's poster contest...and then I got angry.

It is ridiculous of the school bureaucrats to suggest that school

is not the proper place to teach our children about Remembrance Day. It is exactly subjects like this that they should be exposed to.

Mr. Parry suggests that there are better ways to spend classroom time. How may I ask?

He also says that it would use up art supplies. Does he really believe that parents need the endless stream of indistinguishable farm animals that children bring home

from art class every year?

This brings me to Mr. Parry's third point. The contest "wrongly creates competition." There is nothing wrong with giving children a chance to create a poster depicting this very important day if they so choose. Give them the option.

Actions speak louder than words and I am ashamed at the Halton board's action on this matter.

Susan Box, Milton

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November is an advantageous time to review the past ten months, to organize your documents and to review your tax planning strategy for 1996. We are currently reviewing many tax planning tips with our clients. These include reviewing RRSP contributions, income splitting, executive compensation plans, investment portfolio structure, timing of asset disposal, record keeping, and more. Our fall newsletter describes these planning opportunities in detail. Please give us a call to subscribe to our quarterly newsletter.

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