

* OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

A lament for our national traditions forgotten

Dear Editor:

Your Nov, 13 editorial and letters pages were occupied by objections to the Halton Board of Education's refusal to entertain the Royal Canadian Legion's Remembrance Day poster contest proposal.

The underlying problem, in my view, is that virtually nothing relating to this country's former traditions and culture is any longer sacred.

Consider, for example, the little known second verse of the rarely heard "Maple Leaf Forever", composed in 1867 by an expatriate Scot and Toronto public school principal, Alexander Muir:

"At Queenston Heights and Lundy's Lane

Our brave fathers, side by side,

For freedom, homes, and loved ones dear,

Firmly stood and nobly died.

And those dear rights which they maintained

We swear to yield them never,

Our watchword evermore shall be

The Maple Leaf forever!"

It is my understanding that several years ago the federal government successfully pressured all provinces to ban the playing or singing of the "Maple Leaf Forever" from all provincial schools. Although the revelation hurt and angered me, it failed to surprise

Also, within little more than three decades, we have lost the flag under which our veterans fought, the Canadian Coat of Arms, Dominion Day, British-style military uniforms, a host of other customs and symbols, and a good measure of national pride.

The foreword to the second edition of The Canadian Encyclopedia extends gratitude to various federal gov-

ernment institutions for "valuable financial assistance to help support the research and editorial preparation". Mention of the "Maple Leaf Forever" and its composer is noticeably absent from the publication, whereas the verbiage accorded "O Canada", its lyricist (Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier) and its composer (Calixa Lavallee) is precisely what the word "verbiage" implies.

Perhaps next year the Royal Canadian Legion would be wise to sponsor a poster contest exclusively honouring our French Canadian war dead. That could be worth a healthy federal subsidy, satisfying both the Halton Board of Education and the "pure woollers".

Ron Bezant Milton

Please park elsewhere during Santa's parade

Dear Editor:

I am sure that I am not alone in my feelings of displeasure, in regard to the cars that were parked along Main Street during the Santa Claus Parade. Each and every year there is a notice sent around that cars are not to be parked along the parade route.

It just shows people's lack of respect for others, especially children. The majority of children this year had to look around cars to enjoy the parade.

I hope that all the ignorant people who chose to do this will not repeat the same behaviour next year. You all know who you are and this letter is directed to you.

Judy Turner Milton

Jingle bells

Santa was unexpected, but a welcome addition to the A Cappella Showcase performance Saturday afternoon at Milton Mall. The group put on two shows featuring popular Christmas songs and Santa joined in for the finale.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Please give generously to The Champion's Christmas Bureau Fund



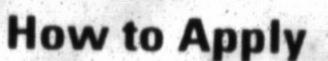
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