

Letters

Gun control, a case of abuse

Dear Editor:

An Open Letter To All Canadians:
Amendments to the firearms provisions of the Criminal Code were considered by Parliament in 1977. A number of the new laws were perceived then as a potential abuse to the thousands of safe honest gun owners and handlers across Canada. The proof is now in with the completion of a three year study provided to the Solicitor General, Mr. Kaplan.

Let me focus on three key areas of concern and demonstrate how these new firearms laws have failed to serve the public interest.

First, the Firearm Acquisition Certificate (FAC). This document is now required by every Canadian wishing to acquire or possess a firearm. The government attempted to sell this concept to the public as a means of providing a screening process of those individuals involved in firearms incidents. The Decision Dynamics Report confirms that there is no comprehensive data on whether individuals involved in firearm incidents possessed an FAC. This means that the principal argument for implementing the certificate process is now without support.

Second, and perhaps most shocking in light of the Constitutional protection from "unreasonable Search and Seizure" is the evaluation of the Search and Seizure Without Warrant provisions of Bill C-51. This provision was intended to allow police officers to search and seize in situations where no criminal offence has yet occurred.

As a safeguard, there is a requirement that following any search with or without a warrant that the Attorney General make a return to a magistrate or Court. This in theory would afford protection—all be it after the fact—to the rights of all Canadians.

The conclusions of the Report to the Solicitor General are alarming. Non compliance with the return procedures is widespread. This means that

the Police and the Attorneys-General are breaking the law. This law of Search and Seizure without warrant—while perhaps of legal use on occasion—is a loophole allowing abuse of the privacy and property of Canadians. One can only wonder why the police and politicians in power are not functioning within the terms of the legislation.

In the 1981 Supreme Court of Canada decision on this section of the law-Colet vs. Queen—the Supreme Court held that any statutory provision which encroached on the common law rights of property owners would be strictly interpreted in favour of the property owner.

So here we have a law-search and seizure without warrant-legislated by the Liberals and enforced across Canada principally by Conservative governments—that is being used carelessly and at least on occasion to the detriment of our rights.

Third, and a powerful indictment of the haphazard nature of the new firearms laws is the fact that the Courts are not imposing the mandatory prohibition orders. These orders are required where a firearm is used in an indictable offence. Less than 20 percent of criminal convictions has resulted in prohibition orders.

Surely, where an individual is convicted of a serious criminal offence involving a firearm—there should be a prohibition order to protect the public. There is not.

In summary, Bill C-51 which was heralded by the Liberals as a means of reducing firearm offences and protecting the public has failed. This failure involves not only the Trudeau government, but also the Police the almost entirely Progressive Conservative Attorneys-General of the provinces and the Courts. This situation must be addressed by legislatures at both levels of government.

There is not in my view substantial supportive evidence for the continued inclusion of many of these laws on the books. I have introduced into the

House of Commons a private member's bill to remove certain provisions brought in by the infamous Bill C-51.

I would be more than happy to make available a copy of this private member's bill and related background information to anyone interested in writing to me in Ottawa.

Sincerely,
Jim Fulton, M.P.
Skeena

Learning by trial and error

Dear Editor:

Please accept my apology for my ambiguous approach in the past.

We do learn by trial and error, and correct our approach. We may also become self rehabilitated.

I wish to express my appreciation for the courtesy you have demonstrated. Your most valuable time was creatively taken up.

And I thank you, as past president of the Tiny-Tay Huronia Handicapped Association.

I would like to wish all my friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday!

Yours truly,
Ray Lalonde

Identifies hotel

Dear Editor:

Received a copy of Photo Flashback of Lakeview Hotel at Waubaushene. It was built in 1909 and owned and operated by my family.

My sister and brother and I were all born there. Would it be possible to have three copies of that edition mailed to me.

Thank you
Enid G. Thompson
Barrie

OPP report

According to Elmvale OPP, Frank Longmore of RR 3, Elmvale, was travelling along Con. 4 of Flos, just west of sideroad 20 when he reportedly lost control of his vehicle and struck a bridge. Longmore sustained \$1,200 damage to his vehicle but received no injuries to himself.

Paul Diflorio of Etobicoke, was reportedly travelling along highway 27 north of County Road 22, when a deer darted in front of his vehicle.

Police say, Deflorio was unable to avoid the deer and as a result, received \$1,000 damage to his car.

Terry Mole of Newmarket has been charged with impaired driving after an incident when a parked vehicle, belonging to Steven Tripp of Elmvale, was struck. Tripp's car was parked on the south shoulder of Highway 93 and police estimate \$4,000 damage to his vehicle while the Mole vehicle sustained only \$2,000 damage.

RC Board meeting highlights

The new Catholic Education Centre of Simcoe County was the site of the Nov. 16, meeting of Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

The newly constructed building which is located at 46 Alliance Boulevard in Barrie contain the Board Room and Administrative offices of the Board.

Solemn blessing and official opening of the new building will take place at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4.

APPRECIATION

First order of business for the Nov. 16 meeting of The Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board was an expression of salutation and appreciation to its neighbouring board.

The trustees pointed to the excellent cooperation which has existed between the two boards over many years and expressed the desire that their new location would not change that.

Appreciation was also expressed for extension of lease at 99 Ferris Lane while the new Catholic Education Centre was being constructed.

\$750,000

A debenture in the amount of \$750,000 will be sold by Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board to raise the Board's share of three recent projects.

The debenture is being handled for the Board by Burgess Graham Securities and the Board's banking agent, The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Term of the debenture will be 10 years with interest rates of 11½ to 12½ per cent for the first five and second five respectively.

BUILDING

Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board will consider demolition of part of one building while it proceeds with construction of two others.

With the scheduled opening of Father F.X. O'Reilly School in Tottenham this fall, an older portion of St. James School at Colgan will be considered for demolition by the Policy, Planning, and Development Committee of the Board.

Agreement has now been reached between the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board and Town of Penetanguishene for transfer of a piece of property for a school site. The 5.2 acre site on Dufferin Street is part of a municipal subdivision.

In addition to agreeing to the sale of the property by the Town to the Board on November 18, 1983, an accord for joint development of

playground and parking facilities has been reached. The result is dual use of the two with economic benefit to the local taxpayers.

Design for the new Ecole Saint Louis to be sited at this new location has now reached the detailed stage.

As soon as the detailed plans are completed by Architect W. H. Nesbitt they will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education for approval previous to public tendering of the project.

A fourth draft plan for the new St. Joseph's High School in Barrie has now been considered by the Joint Committee concerned with its development. It

is anticipated that a final sketch and ultimate building proposal can soon be readied for Ministry of Education consideration.

Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board is supporting the position paper developed by two trustee associations on the Governance of minority language education in Separate School Boards in the province. In addressing its position to the Ontario Separate School Trustees' Association and L'Association française de Conseils scolaires de l'Ontario, the Board will make a couple of suggestions.

The Board feels that a

much stronger statement of the need for extension of Roman Catholic Separate Schools through complete high school should be made. It feels that the Ministry of Education should be

made aware of potential increase in costs and that it should be prepared to recognize the potential need for more accommodation to meet the needs of students.

The Board feels as well that a solution to minority language education can be found in Separate School Boards across the province if a measure of good will prevails.

Learning the ABC's

The maternal instinct is getting some special help these days at two Hamilton hospitals.

Both St. Joseph's and Henderson General are running Maternal and Child Health Programs to teach new mothers and fathers how to care for their babies and give a boost to their feelings of competence as parents.

Personalized educational programs encourage families to pin-point their own specific concerns about parenthood and discuss them with health professionals. Information sheets provide additional facts on topics such

as newborn ailments, single parenthood and post-caesarian exercises.

Audiovisuals on breast-feeding that reinforce practical instruction are also available for viewing in small groups or individually. The program isn't restricted only to first-time parents.

The hospitals encourage family-centred maternity care by supplying siblings with colouring books that explain the characteristics of a newborn, and stress the special responsibilities of an older brother or sister.

We're glad you asked!

Jim Lynn
Funeral Director



WHO CAN HELP ME PLAN MY FUNERAL?

"I am alone. No family members live near me and I'd like to talk to someone about making plans for my funeral."

There is help available to you! Our area is fortunate in having fine, thoughtful funeral directors who are prepared to consult with you about planning a funeral in advance.

This service is called "pre-planning a funeral." Here at our funeral home, we can serve as your personal consultants and will inform you completely about all the services and costs. After you set your own price range, we will discuss music, clergyman, and scripture readings, things which are most meaningful to you.

Because of our highly mobile society today, pre-planning of funerals is a request we hear more and more often. Feel free to contact us about this very personal service at no charge to you and without obligation.



James H. Lynn
Funeral Homes

Midland
526-6551

Elmvale
322-2732

You are invited

Combined Choir Carol Service

December 11, 1983

4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at

St. Paul's United Church,
King St., Midland

- 60 voice choir
- Trumpet soloist
- Handbell choir



SENIORS! Call 526-7350 for a ride to the 4 p.m. service.

Interested Christian Families are gathering for Bible Study and Sharing. You are invited to join us.

Place: Home of Richard and Ruth Lamoureux, 825 Victoria Street, Midland.

Time: Fridays at 8 p.m.

Meetings cancelled Dec. 23-30

Sponsored by Associated Gospel Churches of Canada.