

Editorials

Letters

Area religious leaders show faith and integrity

To the Editor:

Dear Friend:

May I, as an individual Quaker, comment on the interfaith services and the walk for justice and peace on Sunday, April 13, in Barrie.

I commend the courage, the "grace under pressure", of Father John Hawkshaw of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Pastor Bill Fritz of Collier Street United, and Canon John Speers of Trinity Anglican; the hundreds of persons of all faiths who attended the services in their churches were encircled with true fellowship.

Canon John Speers has taken a bit of a beating this past week. Of course, I realize that we can justify this by a reference to Isaiah 2:4, "they shall beat their spears into pruning hooks", but I really don't want to see John Speers beaten into anything. I love him as he is.

The leaders of other faiths showed integrity and courtesy in rising above our admitted and legitimate differences to affirm that we share a realization that might is not right; that human power is not self-sufficient and absolute. Our guest speaker, Patricia Bryden, of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, brought home to us the effects of injustice and war on little children, surely our own children if we recognize our shared humanity.

The surplus of over \$200 from the offering at Trinity, will be donated equally between the local Community Food Bank, and the Canadian Save

the Children Fund for use overseas.

Now, a word to those pastors of local Christian churches who disagree with those who are prepared to meet with those of other faiths to share our commitment to justice and peace; (letter, Barrie Examiner, April 11). I understand your position; indeed it is the one on which I was raised within the fundamentalist Exclusive Closed Plymouth Brethren, in Scotland. I respect your position; however, I do suggest that there are few among us who on reading Matthew 25:31/46 can fail to have a little humility as we reflect on how we are doing as followers of Jesus.

I'm happy to read of your approval of "the rightness of the cause of justice and peace". For those who seek an organization which combines a sound Biblical foundation, knowledgeable research, and intelligent positions on issues of justice and peace, may I recommend Citizens For Public Justice (also known as the C.J.L. Foundation), and its magazine, Catalyst, 229 College Street, Toronto, M5T 1R4; telephone (416) 979-2443.

I trust that all of us will be motivated to work ever harder for justice and peace; in the spirit of the Hebrew prophet, Micah, 6:6/8: "What doth the Lord require of thee; but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

In friendship,
David Griffis Mair

How Midland's Y spends donations

Dear Editor:

I believe the retelling of the following conversation which apparently took place at the Midland Music Festival might help your readers understand how the YMCA uses donations. It will also compliment the Y's Men and their wives who so richly deserve praise.

Music festival participant's parent: "Why should I have to pay \$1.25 to hear my children perform? I have already paid a \$4 entry fee for each program that each child has entered."

Volunteer Y's Man's wife ticket seller: "The Y's Men operate the Music Festival as a service to the people of Midland and area and it is managed in such a way that the fees to the participants and the audience are kept to a minimum. In order to accomplish this and to ensure that the festival breaks even over the long term, donations are solicited from citizens and businesses. These donations are gratefully acknowledged on the programme."

Music festival participant's parent: "But the Town of Midland gave money to the YMCA last year and it's my tax money that they are spending."

Volunteer Y's Man's wife ticket seller: "The YMCA was very grateful for support from the town and used those funds to subsidize memberships in the YMCA, but not for service projects of the Y's Men's club. The Y's Men operate community service projects to break even, and fund raising projects to raise money for the Y and other charitable organizations.

The Midland YMCA also endeavours to keep membership fees to a minimum and at the same time provide the best programmes and facilities available. Above all, the YMCA attempts to make these programmes and facilities available to every member of the community, even those who are referred by a teacher, clergyman or some other concerned citizen because they are unable to pay the fee. Over the past several years, 300 to 400 such memberships were granted or subsidized annually. This would not be possible without the generous

support of many volunteers, supporters, service clubs, businesses, industries and neighbouring municipalities in addition to last year's generous support from the town of Midland. The Midland Y's Men's Club is the biggest single supporter of the Midland YMCA through its many fund raising activities in addition to its community service projects such as the Midland Music Festival.

On behalf of the members of the Midland YMCA and the citizens of Midland, I would take this opportunity to thank the Midland Y's Men's Club for its devoted service. I would also take this opportunity to thank the many people who work so diligently to enable Midland to have one of the finest YMCAs in Canada.

Hudson Leavens
President, Midland YMCA

Pipes and Drums thank ladies for \$1,000 donation

Letter to Editor

Thank You, Ladies

The Penetang Legion Pipes and Drums extends its sincere thanks to the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Penetang Legion, Branch 68, for their recent \$1,000.00 donation.

A special vote of thanks goes to L.A. President, Ella Parker for her effort in this generous gift.

Thank you ladies.

Take my Russian caviar - please!

If my memory serves me, it all started with an old James Bond movie. You remember when Sean Connery had lots of black hair? Anyway, he was dressed to kill (pun intended), tails, bow tie, gun under left armpit, disarming smile, the whole bit. At a top diplomatic gathering nonchalantly sipping a martini with the ice crushed, and stirred not shaken, it happened.

Leaning over the table groaning with delicacies and picking up a cracker he said, "Beluga of course" and took a nibble.

The stuff on the cracker was caviar, Beluga from the Russian Giant Sturgeon, black in colour and the consistency of frog spawn which it resembles. Good old fish eggs or pickled sturgeon roe.

Anyway, I only tasted it once at a reception years ago and to be honest I didn't like the taste. I've actually turned it down since without too much thought.

Not so No. 3 son. It must have stuck in his memory and surfaced a couple of weeks ago. Starting low key with enquiries like, "Have you ever

tasted caviar, Dad?" to "I wonder what it tastes like?" It escalated to "Well could we maybe buy some?" through to "Did you buy any caviar, Dad?" And, having finally promised to buy some it led into "Have you bought it today, Dad?"

Visiting two supermarket delicatessen sections I found a 55 gram glass jar of the stuff with a screw top lid and a symbolic representation of an Imperial Russia coat of arms on the lid. The jar was hidden between a sauce for basting on frog legs, and the frog legs themselves in a can.

The jar nestled easily in the palm of the hand. The back pocket was a lot lighter when I had paid for it. Ounce for ounce it lives up to its nickname, Russian Gold.

In response to the nightly question "Did you buy any caviar?" the smug answer was "Or course." With delicacy it was carefully blobbed on small crackers and put out for dessert.

Half of a whole cracker was eaten collectively between us. It must be hereditary. Nobody likes it. The uneaten ones finally disappeared somewhere

and the jar went back in the fridge. It has to be an acquired taste or you have to be awfully hungry. What to do with the jarful is a continuing problem.

Suggestions ran the gamut from try it on toast or on cereals - nobody did; take it back to the store and say you don't like it. I'm not that brave;

try and give it away politely, like "By the way we have some spare caviar, would you like it?" Not so far;

wait for the next Tin Can Show at the Pen or Roxy Theatres and hand it in, saying, "Do you accept caviar?"

buy some netting and make it into small bags and use it for bait at the opening of trout season. Not only will any self respecting trout turn its nose up at it but it's probably illegal and the Ministry of Natural (Un-Natural) Resources would probably seize the rod, reel, boat, motor, pickup truck, the fridge it was stored in, and probably the shirt off your back for good measure;

save it for an upcoming wedding, then, follow-

ing the rehearsal, when people come back for a snack, you put it on the table on crackers, surrounded by similar plates of crackers with cheese, olives, salmon, rolled meats and so on.

Surely somebody is bound to fall for it if you casually mention "Oh, don't forget the caviar before it all goes."

But for now, it sits there nice and cold, snug and dry in its jar with just the barest portion taken out with the tip of a teaspoon.

Well it could be worse. James Bond could have asked for something exotic like ground rhinoceros horn.

"Caviar comes from a virgin sturgeon. The virgin sturgeon is a very fine fish. The virgin sturgeon needs no urging, that's why caviar is my dish."

Excerpt from a bawdy ballad. English Mountaineers Club 1950.

Ray Baker and his family live in Penetanguishene. He is a freelance writer who still watches James Bond movies, in spite of it all.

Caucus gives Brian headaches Carey Nieuwhof

When everything is going wrong in your little world and you think no one else on this planet has it worse off than you, think of our beloved Prime Minister. In him you will find the man whose world truly is crumbling beneath him.

It's not really his fault either. Last week Sinclair Stevens finally resigned after being broiled for over two weeks by opposition fire. Did Brian Mulroney have anything to do with this? No. Is he taking the heat for it? Yes.

If you recall, our PM was off globe trotting when the Steven's affair blew up. Mulroney was candidly admitting that it was nice to get away from the daily grenade throwing in the House of Commons. He thought that by travelling abroad he could avoid politics and begin some creative foreign affairs brownie points. He got Canada included in the Big 7 group of western powers, something we'd all secretly been hoping for decades. He was greeted by honour guards and treated with great honour and dignity abroad. This, hoped Brian Mulroney,

would look good on TV back home in Canada. Did it? No. That's because every night on the news, Mulroney's manouevres abroad were eclipsed by Sinclair Stevens daily broilings in the House.

It seems that no matter what Brian tries to do, his caucus is intent on giving their leader nightly migraines. Consider the case of Robert Toupin.

Two weeks ago, only Robert Toupin's relatives knew who he was. Today, all Canada knows Toupin as the man who quit the PC caucus, crossed the floor of the House of Commons, and began sitting as an independent. The story, however, goes far deeper than this.

You see, old Bob Toupin, is a former Liberal. He was one of the millions of former Quebec Grits who hopped ship in 1984 and ran as Tories in the federal election. This didn't concern Mulroney at the time, but it should concern him now.

The first defection is complete. You can bet that it will only be a short matter of time before Toupin makes a few more moves and sits with his Liberal

buddies, running in the 1988 election as a Grit. The big question, however, is how many more Quebec MPs are ready to hop the floor and join Toupin and the ranks of the Tory enemies?

Worse than that, Mulroney has to consider the distinct possibility that the Liberals are actively working with Quebec Tories to try to woo them into their fold. How many Benedict Arnolds does Mulroney have in his caucus? Are there two more, five more, or a dozen more? The prospect is genuinely scary.

Imagine all the Tory secrets that could be revealed by these double agents. They may soon be leaking confidential information to John Turner and his shifty eyes cohorts. Books could follow. There could be a series of leather bound editions telling all, revealing what really went on when Tories met during the first two years of the government.

Mulroney should be worried. There's no doubt he is. Despite the fact that all these new Quebec recruits were welcome to run as candidates in

1984. The PC party should have had one or two questions about who these candidates were. Toupin, after all, was a former Liberal. Did the party not realize that Quebecers have always hated Tories? Did the party not realize that throughout the years, most Quebecers would rather have seen a Rhinoceros government than a conservative one? It's all hindsight now. But Mulroney should be worried about how loyal his Quebec caucus is.

So, do your troubles seem all that big now? At least you're not trying to run a country properly, only to have your family continue to make things difficult. When things go wrong in your life, just be glad you are not head of the Tory family of this great country. As Brian Mulroney will tell you, life is no picnic when your family and friends bring the ants.

Letters

The Penetanguishene Citizen welcomes Letters to the Editor. They must be legible, signed (by hand), and carry the writer's address and telephone number for verification. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published. Letters published by this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper, its publisher or editor.

Penetanguishene Citizen

Published by Bayweb Limited every Tuesday at
74 Main Street, Penetanguishene, Ontario 549-2012
Second Class Mail Registration Number 2327

Publisher: Andrew Markle
Manager: Judy French
Editor: Michele Gouett



Member



CNA Member