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Starting over

It's not just students who are heading into the fall with thoughts of new beginnings. Some interesting political hopefuls made their intentions known this past week while other seasoned politicians announced their withdrawal from the limelight.

The Essex municipal election received the spark of life when licensed mechanic Bill Arps threw in his name for

Ward 1 councillor. Known for his vocal opposition to the Essex Business Improvement Area, Arps is only the second person to file his nomination

papers in the ward, the first being Councillor Morley Bowman. With just over three weeks left until the Sept. 29 deadline, Ward 1 will need at least one more candidate to declare his or her intentions to ensure a contest.

In Ward 3, Councillor Bill Caixeiro withdrew his name last week about the same time as Dan Inverarity was filing his papers. Caixeiro's withdrawal leaves two candidates for Colchester South's two seats – Inverarity and Paul Innes, a former Ward 3 councillor.

In Lakeshore, Mayor Bob Croft announced his retirement from politics after almost 20 years, while David Tremblay, a member of the Save Our Sanctuaries group that has worked to prevent the destruction of a St. Joachim church, injected some life into that town's contest by announcing his intention to run for mayor. You might remember Tremblay as the NDP candidate in the 2004 federal election who managed to seize over 12,500 voters from Conservative candidate Jeff Watson and Liberal Susan Whelan.

And, in Kingsville, where a spirited contest is expected between Mayor Nelson Santos and Pat O'Neil, a former mayor of the town, financial planner Jim Augerman has filed for council. Augerman's group of Clarica advisors are the folks responsible for planting the little flags on area front lawns in celebration of Canada Day.

So where are the rest? With three weeks to go and the pace of life for many of us on the verge of speeding up, it's time for a few more horses to enter the race.

My First Car

You've heard the saying, 'Every picture tells a story.' Well, Bill Sherck can prove that every car tells a story.

We are very pleased to introduce a new column to the pages of the Free Press this week. Bill Sherck's weekly column, "CarStory", debuts on page 9 of this edition with a story about Don Brown's new Mustang.

If you want to know the story behind a 1982, 2-door, slate grey Ford Lynx that ended its days in Newfoundland, you'll have to contact me directly.



free press
editorial

laurie brett

The news media has been full of doomsday assessments of Canada's mainline churches recently. Church leaders, in particular clergy, are open game for every type of innuendo. Some writers seem to bask in bad news like church closures and alleged clergy misconduct, while neglecting the good that occurs every day.

Are Canada's mainline churches creatures from the past awaiting their final end? Are the new big box churches springing up across the land the answer to everything?

The truth, if one cares to look, is found in the huge changes in Canadian society since the so-called heyday of the 1950s and '60s. In the good old days, everyone attended church services on Sunday. The stores were closed except for a few pharmacies and restaurants. The first general manager of Devonshire Mall, John Topping, told me in 1971, "If I opened this place on Sunday, I'd be run out of town."

The distractions towards Sunday church services

don't end with shopping. More people than ever who work in a service industry are finding themselves scheduled for Sunday shifts.



opinion

bill gay

Often, both parents work outside the home. Travel sports means driving kids long distances. In the '50s and '60s quiet ruled on Sunday.

But to deal with the mainline churches themselves... Have they changed from the good old days? Unquestionably. Like the schools, churches now deal with family problems that were non-existent or hidden in years gone by. A wider demographic of individuals seeks the assistance of the church. Most mainline

churches understand that spiritual and secular needs are both important. Discipleship is different from membership. Does one select a church based on the number of benefits, like when choosing a health club? If your minister or priest fails to provide you with the answers to all of life's trials, do you drop them from your radar screen? This happens generally when the real problem is within oneself. It's like blaming the math teacher when you fail math.

Here in Essex, the town has long been blessed by active and caring churches, some of which have served through many generations. But their age does not mean that they have not changed with the times. Just in the past few decades, significant changes have taken place. Your church merits your support. The most important gift you can give is that of your time, the most precious commodity. It is always more exciting to criticize, but honest analysis says that while big challenges await our churches, they will be around for a long, long time.



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