



Sunset from the sky



A drone captures the beauty as the sun sets over Niagara-on-the-Lake, casting an orange glow over the town on Friday, March 15. One might think it's a fall photo, with all the red colours. JOHN DELORENZI

Mennonites have experienced suffering

Dear editor:

Thank you for publishing Kit Andre's Letter to the editor, "Mennonites want ceasefire in Israel-Palestine conflict," (March 14).

I am both a Methodist (by tradition) and a Mennonite (on confession of faith) and I am a "red-letter Christian" in that I take the teachings of Jesus seriously.

I agree that Mennos have a history that ought to make them particularly attuned to people who are suffering.

Two of my Menno friends are in their 90s and fled

from Ukraine in the 1940s.

One woman can remember wrapping her arms around her father as he was being abducted by the Russian NKVD.

He went to a gulag and she never saw him again.

Another recalls fleeing to Germany and — en route — her mother would hide her sister and her in haystacks while she went to look for food. Some family members died on the journey.

And even arriving in Canada, these women and so many other Mennos

were not welcomed, at least initially.

They were poor, they were seen as German or Russian, which was not popular, to say the least. And Mennonites were seen by some as being part of a cult.

Mennos — and indeed all Christians — should have a commitment to upholding the people who are referred to Jesus as "the least of these" and "blessed."

I agree with any movement in any country torn apart by war — including Palestine — for ceasefire

(peace), humanitarian aid (relief) and rebuilding (development.) The Mennonite Central Committee has as its maxim: relief, development and peace in the name of Christ.

Most Mennonite Christians are not white or of European descent, and they don't have horse-driven buggies. About 84 per cent of Mennos are African, Asian or Latin American and of this group, the majority are Ethiopian.

*Jan Carrie Steven
St. Catharines*

Hamas must be accountable for its actions

Dear editor:

Your letter writer Kit Andres speaks of the Mennonite duty to condemn violence ("Mennonites want ceasefire in Israel-Palestine conflict," (March 14).

This is a duty that all of us have as well as those who claim Mennonite ancestry.

However, there is not a single word in the letter that protests the Hamas organization (elected by the

people of Gaza). By its own admission, Hamas started this latest round of violence and is responsible for the horrendous massacre and hostage-taking incident against Israelis on Oct. 7, 2023.

This organization has sworn death to Israelis and the elimination of Israel while at the same time members have embedded themselves with civilians in

Gaza for their own protection against the Israeli response.

We all know that Palestine's call — "From the river to the sea" — can only mean one thing. Under these circumstances, Israel has every right to defend itself.

Nevertheless, the damage and suffering of many innocents in Gaza caused by the violence and as stated by the Gaza authorities is

without any doubt appalling and cannot continue.

However, the immediate and permanent ceasefire called for by Andres is, in my opinion, naive and does not address the nature of the combatants, the history of indiscriminate military action or the issue in dispute and what the likely end result would be.

*Derek Collins
NOTL*

Ambassadors' photo wasn't Cheropita's idea

Dear editor:

As a town councillor I am always open to and welcome residents to contact me by phone or email.

I want to listen to their concerns, discuss ideas and find solutions to the issues that the town and all of us face each day. I am committed to representing the community with honesty and integrity.

I was disappointed when

I read the letter in The Lake Report on March 14 by Samuel Young, "Is tourism strategy report being skewed by town?"

Mr. Young did not present any facts to support his accusations or statement. He simply accused me of having my fingerprints all over the recommendation to include in the tourism strategy committee's report a photo of

the NOTL Ambassadors group.

That suggestion came from a proud member of the Ambassadors, not me. The group now has about 60 members, volunteers who devote their time to welcome visitors to NOTL's heritage district every weekend from May to October.

Sam, why would we not include a photo of these good people?

I am happy to speak directly to Mr. Young to discuss ideas and hear his concerns on any topic.


But a letter to the editor that does nothing more than hurl personal insults at me or any other member of council is not productive or reflective of our small-town community culture and values.

*Coun. Wendy Cheropita
NOTL*



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