

John H. Redekop, Editor

Nadia Baran, Production Assistant



From the Executive Director's Desk

In continuation of my attempt to “debunk myths” on non-profit (part 3 of 3), this month I want to address the misconception that non-profits are inefficient. This perception that non-profit organizations are slow, unorganized or inefficient tends to be a popular one but it is incorrect. If this perception was true, then we would also assume that in the for-profit world, there is inherently smarter strategy and therefore the for-profit entities are more effective. The truth is that in all three sectors, business, government and non-profit, each one includes organizations which perform well, perform poorly and everything in between.

Organizations in any sector can suffer from poor management, but in the non-profit community, there’s actually a growing trend toward efficiency and accountability. This goes back to the idea that a non-profit is a business and that in order to reach organizational goals, non-profit leaders do make a concerted effort to run their organization as efficiently as possible.

My experience working in the humanitarian aid sector has been enlightened on how the competition for grants is humongous. If your non-profit is inefficient and disorganized with a terrible track record, you’re going to have a hard time finding a donor who will fund you and so a non-profit has to do well in its management and efficiency. What it comes down to is how well do you use your income or grants in order to be at the top.

This ties in with the misconception that a non-profit should have low “overhead” costs. If you have two organizations that provide shelter and their roofs are leaking a bit (over head in the truest sense), with organization #1 doing cheap patches to keep their overhead ratio at 12% (but the leaks keep happening) and organization #2 has an overhead ratio of 15% percent because it replaced the roof, which one is more effective?

I’m proud to say that the CGAS board has decided to undertake a 12-month project in order to be more efficient in its operations and meet its mission. This will be realized with the project called “Investing in People for a Better Tomorrow” which is basically a grant-funded project to put in place a 5 to 10-year strategic plan, hopefully to be voted on at the next AGM. This plan will enable whoever is in leadership to manage matters and to provide progressive reports based on actual indicators. Having a well written and realistic strategic plan will enable a non-profit to be more successful in accomplishing its mission and being efficient and effective.

Luc Sabot

A lady parked her car in a parking lot. Her dog was lying on the back seat. She rolled down the window to give him lots of air.

As she walked away she turned and called out to the dog, “Now you stay!” The driver of a nearby car gave her a strange look and said, “Why don’t you just put it in park?”

Awards!

The Word Awards were established to encourage the pursuit of excellence in the art, craft, practice and ministry of writing and help raise the profile of Canadian writers who are Christian. For more information about The Word Guild please visit www.thewordguild.com.

The *Word Guild* is a national Canadian organization consisting of a large number of Christian writers. Each year this organization invites writers from across Canada to submit entries in a total of 46 categories. The categories range from Personal Experience and Poetry to Devotional Writing, Mystery, Biography, Short Story, and Fiction.

All submissions must have been published somewhere as books, in any newspaper, magazine, on line, etc. The publications can be secular or religious. The awards for 2022 publications were announced on September 16 .

This year the editorial *Transgenderism*, published in the August, 2022 issue of the *Newsletter* won first place in the category, *Short Article, Opinion*. The award consists of a certificate, a trophy, and a financial award which the author will be donating to MCC for Ukrainian relief. The winning column is reproduced below.

Surprisingly, an editorial in the June, 2022 *Newsletter* was a runner-up in two other categories. *Home Equity Tax* was a runner-up in the category *Short Article - Christian Market* and also in the category *Stand Alone Article – General Market*. In the category *Column Series – General and Christian*, two *Newsfeature* editorials: *Transgenderism* (August, 2022) and *Immensity* (September, 2022) were a runner-up .

Your editor is also pleased to report that another of his submissions, *UBC Reflections*, which was published elsewhere, won first place in two categories: *Long Feature - Christian Market* and *Long Feature - General Market*. Here, also, the financial awards will be donated to MCC for Ukraine relief.

!!The Winning Column!!

WORD Guild PERSONAL OPINION, sponsored by Engage Magazine, Winner: John Redekop: Abbotsford, BC "Transgenderism" (Clearbrook Golden Age Society)

Transgenderism

During the first six decades of my life I heard of only one person whose sexual identity was unclear – was he a man or was she a woman. Today the question of sexual identity has become a major issue. Transgenderism, switching from one sex to the other, and gender dysphoria, being confused or unsure of one's sexual identity, have become huge issues in schools, sports, and society generally..

I shall leave it to psychiatrists, psychologists, and moralists to explain why this tsunami of sexual dysphoria is sweeping across western society. It seems evident, however, that secularization of society, the upsurge of certain pressure groups, and some major shifts in school curriculums have all played a part. We shall let some recent or current examples illustrate the crisis.

Recently a University of Pennsylvania swimmer, Lia Thomas, competing as a woman, easily ranked as the best female swimmer. Before identifying as a female Lia Thomas ranked No. 462 as a male swimmer. According to the news report, Lia is still “a biological man”.

Sportswriter Doug Robinson, writing for the Utah Deseret News, reports that New Zealand's Laurel Hubbard will compete in the next Summer Olympics as a woman. He, now she, will surely win. A 6-foot-1, 287 pound person, Laurel has already won two gold medals and a silver medal in the 2019 Pacific Games. Women who were not men may not have much of a chance against her.

At the University of Montana Jonathan Edwards was a reasonable good middle-distance runner. After Jonathan said that he really thought of himself as a female and ran with the female students, he, now she, easily won the women's mile race and became an outstanding female athlete.

Perhaps the most striking example of this so-called sexual or gender dysphoria is the documented case where a high school boy was allowed to use the girls washroom because he felt he was inwardly a girl.

Reaction to this surge in sexual dysphoria is mounting. Gradually some Christian writers are calling people back to the notion that God created female and male persons. They rightly reason that people hurt themselves and harm society when they claim to have a sexual identity that contradicts the reproductive organs with which they were born.

Political response has been swifter than religious reaction. About 20 US states have enacted or are presently enacting legislation barring transgendered males from competing in strictly female sports teams. US senator from Utah, Mike Lee, has introduced a bill in Congress, a bill with financial consequences, which “would protect the opportunity of girls throughout America to athletically compete against other girls.” He is encountering strong opposition from US President Joe Biden who on January 20, 2021 signed an Executive Order that “mandates...that any school that receives federal funding must allow transgender males to compete in female sports”.

To the best of my knowledge, any official Canadian response thus far has been minimal. One can hope that Christian psychiatrists, psychologists, theologians, and other experts will address this complex challenge before politicians and secular educators and media carry the day.

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Editorial

Dishonesty

For several years, but particularly in recent months, there has been impassioned controversy in Canada about adding SOGI, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, to classroom instruction in high schools and even in elementary grades. Several Canadian provinces, including British Columbia have officially approved such addition.

Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to have reasoned discussion about SOGI. The simple explanation for this reality is that many of SOGI's most vocal defenders have adopted a dismissive stance towards all who disagree with them. Stated succinctly, it is common practice for defenders of SOGI to dismiss critics as hateful. Such name-calling has poisoned the atmosphere.

It is high time that defenders of SOGI be challenged to be honest and fair. They must be told that the issue involves disagreement, not hate. Disagreement is not hate. Both defenders and critics must agree that in a free society there must be mutual respect and honest and fair debate – without name-calling.

Let me illustrate why I disagree with much of the SOGI curriculum and why such disagreement should not be dismissed as being hateful. I shall cite several excerpts from *The Gender Spectrum; What Educators Need to Know*. This directive for teachers about how to teach SOGI was posted in the BC Department of Education website.

*Teachers are told to “avoid” speaking of “boys and girls” because these are unacceptable “stereotypes”. I think this is ridiculous. My disagreement does not constitute hate.

*If, given parental teaching, “students cling to traditional beliefs about gender, follow-up questions could include ‘Where does your belief come from?’”

Parental instruction is thus undermined. Further, even in elementary grades, the children’s “beliefs” shall be subject to “rigorous critique”. I consider this instruction to be a gross abuse of the teacher’s dominant role. My disagreement does not constitute hate.

*Young children, even those in kindergarten and Grade 1, shall not be taught that having one Mom and one Dad is normative. The children shall “pretend that they have two moms or two dads” and shall draw a picture of them having “two moms or two dads.” Such abusive indoctrination of these young minds is truly disturbing. This has nothing to do with teaching children not to bully one another which, we read, is the purpose of SOGI lessons. This is blatant abuse of the teacher’s role and must be resisted. Sadly, the SOGI teaching

document is filled with such guidelines, moral values with which many of us disagree. We need to be heard. We have reasonable criticism. We should not be marginalized as hateful.

What society now needs is respectful discussion about SOGI. Intolerant name-calling must end. If there is a case to be made for SOGI, that must be done in reasoned debate.

John H. Redekop

A Message From the Editor

As you may already know, this is the last issue of the *Garden Park Newsletter*, at least it is the last issue of which I am the editor. I resigned as editor last July 2nd. I had not planned to resign and I did not resign for personal reasons, rather, the reasons were situational or, one might say, circumstantial. In my resignation letter I informed the publisher, executive director Luc Sabot, that I would produce three more issues: for August 1, September 1, and October 1. The three-month notice would give him sufficient time to plan for any future undertaking.

October 1 has arrived. I shall reminisce. In the spring of 2014, at the request of the Clearbrook Golden Age Society (CGAS) board, I created the larger, 20-page *Garden Park Journal*. After 26 issues, for various reasons the *Journal* was discontinued. Some months later the CGAS board chairman, John Friesen, asked if I would launch a smaller newsletter. I agreed to do that. The result has been that for five years and two months I have had the responsibility of producing this publication. Generating the 62 issues was, at times, challenging but always enjoyable.

As I leave, I want to thank Nadia Baran most sincerely for her vital role in getting the 62 issues done on time. She has been consistently congenial, resourceful, and always willing to do something extra to help me make this little *Newsletter* as good a publication as we could. It has been delightful to work with Nadia. I also sincerely thank all the fine people who submitted columns, announcements, and other items.

A special thanks goes to the many readers who responded with emails, phone calls, or passing comments. Every response was greatly valued.

Thanks CGAS, Garden Park Tower residents, and the hundreds of readers who received the *Newsletter* as an email attachment or who read it on line. It has been a privilege to serve you.

John H. Redekop



Velma Braun, Luc Sabot, Henry Braun, Former Mayor Braun addressed the crowd and signed his recent memoir for many buyers.



The September 8 Mennonite Heritage Celebration was a great success.

“In 1765 Voltaire said, ‘God is dead’. In 1768 God said, ‘Voltaire is dead’.” *Quoted*

“Concerning virtue, you have to do your own growing, no matter how tall your father was.” *Quoted*

“So live that you would not be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip.” *Will Rogers*

“Old age is the time when being replaces doing.” *Quoted*

“You will never make a child a Christian by denying him certain things.” *Quoted*

EVENTS COMMITTEE
Everyone invited!
THANKSGIVING
DINNER
Thursday, October 5, 6:00 p.m. 2023
Magnolia Room, doors open @ 5:30 pm
Guest Speaker: Vijay Manuel, Head of MEI Schools
“GRATITUDE IN UNSETTLING TIMES”
TICKETS: \$25.00 at Office #101

