

**IN OTHER WORDS**

Columns and Letters to the Editor

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## On conversion therapy

**L**AST WEEK, residents of Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock received in the mail paperwork for a constituency referendum by MP Jamie Schmale.

Schmale has held a few of these referendums in the past, where he asks constituents to vote in order to inform his vote. Past ones have involved the issue of medically assisted death.

The issue at hand this time around is much less controversial, or at least it should be. There should be no ambiguity about which way to vote. The issue at hand this time is Bill C-6, which would criminalize “conversion therapy,” and Schmale should vote in support of the bill.

For anyone unaware, conversion therapy, as correspondence from Schmale’s office points out, is defined as, “practices, treatment or services designed to change an individual’s sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender or to reduce non-heterosexual sexual attraction or sexual behaviour.”

To put it more bluntly, conversion therapy is about trying to force gay people to become straight. It’s an archaic and homophobic practice that should go the way of coal plants. Let’s be very clear – trying to change or “correct” someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity is not therapy; it’s mental and emotional abuse. It’s abuse, and it should be outlawed.

As a press release from Minden

Pride reads, “This is critical to upholding all Canadians’ human rights.”

Pride celebrations have become a part of mainstream culture in many countries, but it’s important to remember that Pride events, while often manifesting in fun street parties, are about much more than fun street parties. They are a movement born out of systemic oppression and in response to homophobic violence. The modern Pride movement was born out of the Stonewall riots in New York City in 1969, members of the LGBTQ+ community fighting back against police after years of violent raids. It was only a couple of years earlier, in 1967, that homosexuality became legal in

Canada through an amendment to the criminal code. Before that, homosexuality was illegal in this country. There are still countries in the world where that is the case, where homosexuality is punishable by death, and where gay people are publicly flogged and stoned.

It’s all connected. While stoning and flogging may not happen here, conversion therapy comes from the same philosophical place – a belief that homosexuality is wrong, and needs to be eradicated.

Schmale should vote yes to C-6 and if he doesn’t, then frankly he should never, ever show up at a Minden Pride flag-raising photo op ever again and expect to have his picture taken.

He can also consider this column my vote on the matter.

**CHAD INGRAM**  
Editor

The Loggers’ Crossing is reflected in the Gull River close to dusk in Minden. /DARREN LUM Staff

## Investments

**T**HE OTHER day Jenn and I were listening to the cable news, when they did a segment about young people who got rich propping up shares of a company that sells games. As you might have guessed, the minute they started talking about the complexities of all those transactions, I stopped paying attention.

Yet, as I was to soon discover, this news piece would soon benefit me as an outdoorsman.

You see, shortly after the segment was over, Jenn said that it was too bad we did not pay attention to these types of investments.

“What do you mean?” I asked.

Her exact response was, “Well, maybe we should do some research and invest in a few stocks.”

That provided me the opportunity I had been waiting a long time for.

“Wait here,” I said.

What followed was a procession from my gun cabinet to the living room where Jenn was sitting, now completely slack jawed.

Then, I uncased the new shotgun, centre-fire rifle and semi-automatic .22 that I had carried from the gun case, after slipping them into the house in 2020.

Before she could say a word, I drew her attention to the butt ends of each of the firearms and said, “I invested in these stocks last year – the barrels, receivers, magazines and triggers were also included. Their value has remained consistent so far, but I expect it to rise substantially the minute the QAnon kooks declare an impending zombie apocalypse...”

Before she could say another word, I added, “Don’t worry. That’s just a small part of our diverse portfolio! I have been playing in the stock market for years.”

As you might expect, she was dumbfounded – presumably, by my financial acumen.

I’m not sure why this was the case. Like most outdoorsmen, I speculate about buying guns all the time. This is, after all, a very sound financial strategy, according to the guys who write for the gun magazines and the friendly guys at the gun store.

That, more than anything, is why savvy people like me dabble in the market.

The good investment part is not a lie either. Some firearms do greatly appreciate in value, especially if they are unique and rarely used. The problem is, we firearms owners are also

a sentimental bunch, so those are the ones we hate to part with.

I’m not going to brag about my stock portfolio. But I will say two things: first it is a growing portfolio. And, second, I have never actually sold a firearm. Sure, I’ve traded a couple, but never actually sold any.

That’s because, as I said, I’m waiting for something to really jumpstart their market value.

Then, when firearms prices rise substantially, I will cautiously sell one or two and invest that money in a more valuable one – that is good for moose and bear.

In the meantime, I will keep diversifying my portfolio and wait for the day when the gun market booms.

Until that time, all is not lost.

Take for example my favourite deer rifle, a sweet little Browning A-bolt in .243. I bought it years ago for a very good price and though the model has appreciated modestly in price, I have not once considered selling it.

Why? Well, as an investor, you also have to consider that a rifle brings annual dividends.

Heck, every year, if all goes well, rifles like that will bring in a buck or two.

**STEVE GALEA**  
Beyond 35