

# OPINION

## To stop a thief

According to the Ontario Provincial Police, research indicates the decision to commit any crime is tied to the perceived risk of being caught.

It's therefore not surprising that more than 200,000 break and enters are reported to police each year in Canada. Of those, six in 10 are residential break-ins.

Clearly, many thieves believe that entering a home is a low-risk venture— especially when some homeowners make it even easier for thieves by leaving doors unlocked or windows open.

Last week alone Halton Police charged four people with breaking into rural Halton Hills homes. That's why police are reminding residents to remain vigilant and keep doors and windows locked when away from home or asleep as a screened door or window can easily be cut or removed by thieves.

Police offer the following tips to homeowners as a means of reducing the risk of their homes to being broken into:

- Securely lock all windows/doors to home
- Have an alarm/video surveillance system installed
- Utilize exterior lighting
- Use locks on gates to backyard
- If you suspect your home has been entered and/or an intruder is still present within or nearby, contact 9-1-1 immediately for police assistance

Additional tips related to both home and personal security can be found on Halton Police's website under the 'Community Policing' tab.

Anyone with information on break-ins can always contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS(8477), through the web at [www.halton-crimestoppers.com](http://www.halton-crimestoppers.com) or by texting 'Tip201' with your message to 274637 (crimes).

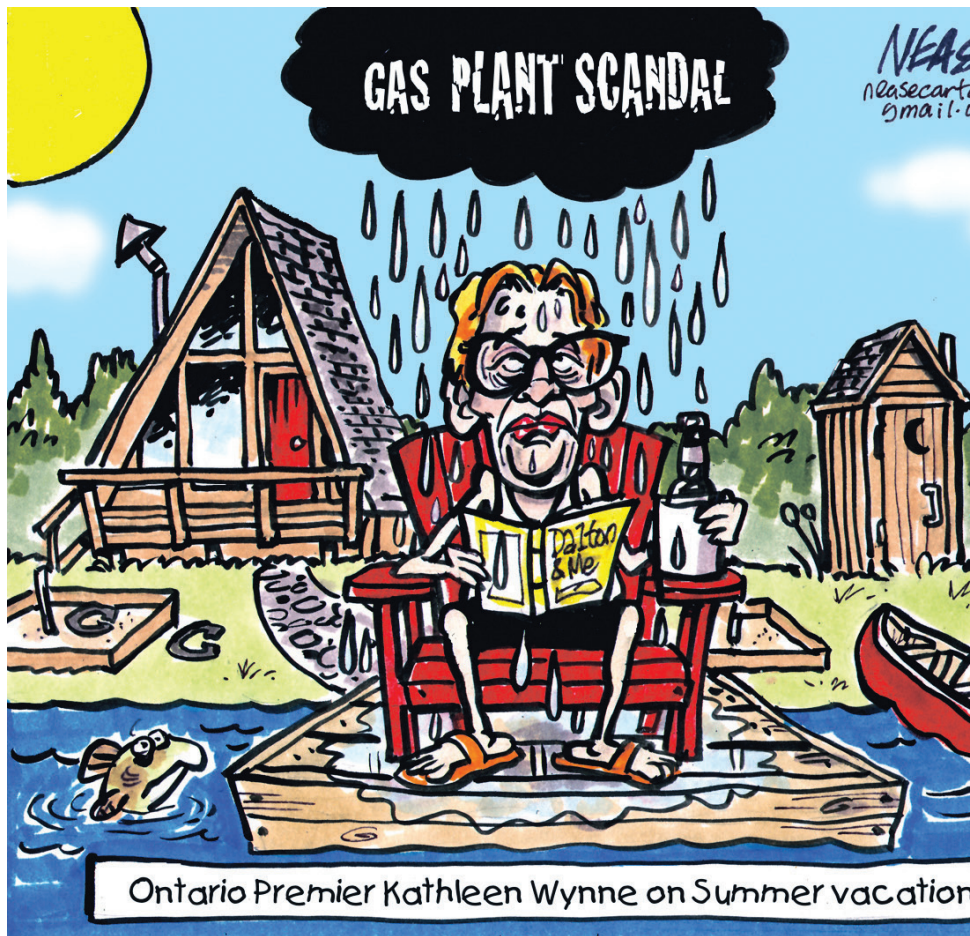
### WEB POLL RESULTS (Go to [www.theifp.ca](http://www.theifp.ca))

In the wake of tragic death of two boys in New Brunswick, should there be an Ontario-wide bylaw banning ownership of exotic pets?

- Yes. No one needs to own a python or a tarantula (88%)
- No. It would be too difficult a law to enforce (12%)

### The Independent & Free Press

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Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne on Summer vacation

Steve Nease

## Letters to the editor

### Ministry limits choice of doctors

Dear editor,  
I was very frustrated to learn that my right to choose a doctor has been taken away by the Ministry of Health. I moved to Georgetown eight years ago and, at that time, there were no female doctors accepting patients. For two years, I continued to travel two hours in order to see my doctor until *The Independent & Free Press* featured a new doctor accepting patients. I was getting anxious to secure a doctor as I was about to embark on an international adoption process and knew it would entail numerous forms, tests, and immunizations. With no other options available, I became a patient of this doctor.

Since then, I have been looking for a new doctor. A short time ago, *The Independent* featured another doctor who was accepting new patients. Upon calling the office, I was surprised to learn the Ministry of Health is only allowing this doctor to accept "orphan

patients". Since I currently have a doctor in Halton, I am not allowed to become a patient.

Had I known years ago that I would only be permitted to "choose" a doctor once in my lifetime, I may not have chosen so quickly.

If new doctors are going to "advertise" they are accepting patients, they should be more explicit about the type of patients they will accept.

For those of you new to Halton, take your time and choose wisely when you decide on a doctor. Remember, the Ministry of Health may prevent you from ever making another choice.

*Doreen Calder, Georgetown*

### Great Homecoming

Dear editor,  
We would like to offer our congratulations to the Homecoming 2013 committee on a very enjoyable weekend.

It was a good way to say goodbye to the "old arena" and the many memories that we have of the arena, the former pool and the Lions Hall.

We both worked hard at the 2007 Homecoming which left little time to

socialize and just have fun. This year we selfishly decided to attend and have fun and the committee provided us with this great opportunity.

Thank you to the hardworking committee and the scores of volunteers who helped so that we could all have fun and share our memories of growing up in Georgetown.

*Doug and Dianne Penrice, Georgetown*

### Good cabbies, kids

Dear editor,  
My friend and I are in our 70s, no longer driving and we go out a lot.

The EZ cab drivers are so helpful and respectful they deserve thanks. Teenagers are so polite and willing to help; we have no hesitation asking for assistance. They will phone us a cab, open doors, help me up steps with my walker and, best of all, give us their time to chat for a few minutes.

Someone has done a remarkable job raising these kids, so parents, be proud.

*Pat and Gloria Shaw, Georgetown*

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