

THE INDEPENDENT

Celebrating

Covering the Years of 1993 to 2013

40 Years

history • heritage • tradition

AND NEWS COVERAGE OF GEORGETOWN AT ITS BEST

Thursday, October 17, 2013

A special commemorative section

48 Pages

Our view....

1973

It's a fact now! The Independent has been born.

A husky infant, it arrived in today's pre-dawn hours, indelibly stamped GEORGETOWN.

The production team collapsed wearily to quickly regain the strength for future issues and a new community newspaper was released.

All of us who have been involved from the original concept to the final production hope that as you look over The Independent you'll share our enthusiasm for this viable community and a newspaper we hope will serve it effectively. In a democracy the free press provides safeguards as does freedom of speech. The editors, publishers and reporters must be accurate and responsible if they are to be effective in that stewardship. We'll be trying all the way.

There are no magic vitamins we can feed our infant to force it to maturity overnight. The greatest gain we can hope for is your readership, your criticism and your encouragement.

The Independent is without historic tradition. It's a tabloid for easy handling, written for easy reading, but retaining sound journalism traditions of responsibility and accuracy.

The Independent is a team effort and we're hoping as a reader you'll get on the team, too. Professional reporters and photographers who staff other Dills publications in Acton and Milton, will be contributing to The Independent on news events of interest to Georgetown readers. They'll be at the Boards of Education, County Assembly, Regional Council, the Legislative Assembly or anywhere else that news is breaking which will affect Georgetown. Locally experienced staffers will be interested in the present and future municipal activities as well as the county programs, social clubs and sports events.

But most of all we hope as a reader you'll find our pages interesting, and a forum in which you can express your views.

Because newspapers also survive on their effectiveness as an advertising medium we hope advertisers will use our pages and readers will consider their messages as invitations to action.

The Independent has its home at 19 Mill St. in central Georgetown. Its telephone number, unfortunately still unlisted, is 877-5266. We're approachable, we're friendly, but unfortunately we can't promise to be perfect. We can promise, though, that The Independent is a soundly planned community newspaper with no pre-conceived axes to grind. The simple objective is to produce a viable, effective community newspaper for Georgetown and district whether you continue to think of that area as Georgetown or Halton Hills.

The Independent has been born. We hope we may invite your interest, co-operations and encouragement whether as a reader or an advertiser.

—Reprinted from The Georgetown Independent, Oct. 17 1973

Our view....

2013

'The simple objective is to produce a viable, effective community newspaper for Georgetown and district whether you continue to think of that area as Georgetown or Halton Hills.'

—An excerpt from the first editorial in the Georgetown Independent Oct. 17, 1973

When those words were penned 40 years ago you could buy a four-bedroom home bungalow in Georgetown for \$34,000, a men's acrylic cardigan would set you back \$4.98 and a new washing machine could be purchased for \$280.

Farmers' fields dominated Georgetown South, Dominion Gardens Seed House was the dominant business on Guelph Street and there was no indoor mall.

As times have changed, this newspaper, like any business, has altered with the times. For example, a photo caption from 1973 referred to two female Georgetown District High School students as "cuties".

Try getting away with that today! Newsgathering, once a laborious process that including processing film and time-consuming work printing pictures in a darkroom, can now be done with a couple clicks on a cell phone.

Throughout the years we've changed the size of our paper, publication dates and design. We've also launched dozens of special sections, print products and magazines and added an electronic version of the newspaper (www.theifp.ca)—something that undoubtedly would have been considered so much science fiction in the pre-home computer days of 1973.

We've moved from the cramped confines of Mill Street to Main Street to a roomy Armstrong Avenue location. In 2000 we made the Georgetown Market Place our home and two months ago relocated to another spot in the Market Place—five moves in 40 years.

Some of our carriers in 1973 are now grandparents.

But throughout the past five decades, our goal has always been the same—to provide you, our readers, with the best local news, information and advertising.

We have literally won dozens of provincial, national and North American industry awards over the years, but our true satisfaction comes from providing residents a news and information source they can trust and offers a voice for this community.

That objective in 1973 to provide Georgetown with a "viable effective community newspaper" has remained a constant through the years—even if the world around us has vastly changed.



Our 40th anniversary contest winner Front page photo of reader's son has become a teaching tool

Editor's note: We recently asked readers to submit their favourite memory involving The Independent with the best judged submission winning a \$200 gift certificate from the Georgetown Market Place. Below is the winning submission from Liz Holmes of Acton.

I have read The Independent for over 17 years.

I have enjoyed numerous articles and pictures of my three boys as a result of their involvement with The Acton Tanners and The Halton Hills Bulldogs—OMHA Champions in 2012 and Ontario Field Lacrosse Champions as well as participating in and winning various lacrosse tournaments.

My favourite edition is Wednesday May 19, 2004.

My family, including my two very young sons, was shopping at Canadian Tire where Sparky the Fire Dog was promoting fire safety. My eldest son, Michael who was three at the time, wanted to say hi to Sparky. A photographer took a picture of Michael and Sparky. The following week, the front cover was the colour picture of Michael and Sparky!

I use this picture every fall in my classroom when I discuss fire safety with my young students. It is hanging on my blackboard right now. Happy 40th anniversary.



Michael Holmes, 3, with Sparky the fire dog in 2004

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