

# OPINION

## Know your enemy

*Do you know the enemy  
Do you know your enemy  
Well gotta' know the enemy, ohaooh!*

—Green Day

Canadians have fallen in love with wireless—loving their smartphones, tablets, iPads and other cordless gadgets.

According to the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA) there are 28 million wireless subscriptions in Canada— 81 per cent of households have wireless for both voice and data use, with that data network increasing by 5% each week.

But while Canadians love the freedom of cell phones and other smart gadgets, there is a growing battle between Canadian residents and telecommunications companies on the placement of cell towers to create the wireless network. That battle has come to Halton Hills many times over years, with conflicts over sites in Ballinafad, Norval, Hornby and now Stewarttown.

But while the residents rail again and again against the telecommunications company or the Town of Halton Hills, they are sparing the real “enemy” from their onslaught.

It is Industry Canada—a federal government department— which makes the final decision on all towers, which states that potential effects on property values and municipal taxes are not relevant, which says Safety Code 6, local bylaws, other legislation, procedures and processes are not relevant.

It is Industry Canada guidelines that need to be changed... and residents should be writing to their MPs to get these guidelines changed.

On Jan. 14, 2014, the federal government will start the 700 MHz auction of wireless airwaves needed for mobile networks— that means more towers.

As the Green Day lyrics conclude:

*Silence is the enemy*

*Against your urgency*

*So rally up the demons of your soul (Ohaooh)*

### WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to [www.theifp.ca](http://www.theifp.ca))

Vancouver has banned door knobs, requiring all new buildings to have easier-to-manoeuvre levers. Would you support a Canada-wide ban on door knobs?

- No (73%)
- Yes (27%)

### The Independent & Free Press

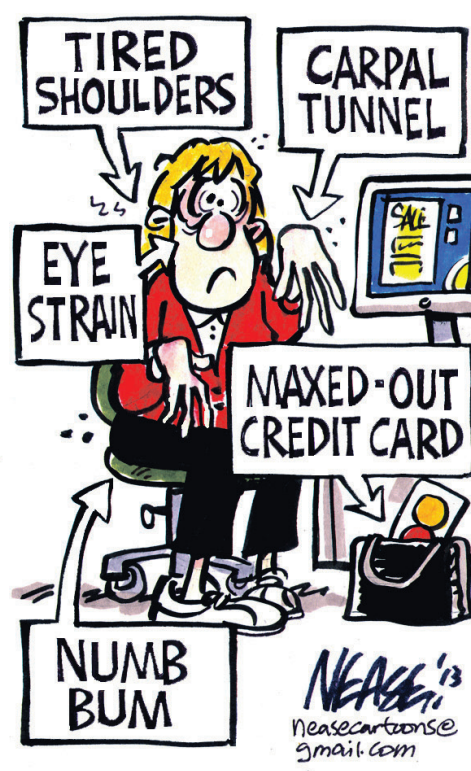
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## Letters to the editor

### Cell tower issue needs discussion

Dear editor,

A 30-metre cell tower is planned for installation about 160 metres southwest of Stewarttown Public School.

A public open house was held November 25, and some parents were surprised at the lack of attendance. Fact is, parents of students at the school received no more notice or information than any other member of the public. They may only be learning about this tower now.

The public commenting period on this tower closes December 6. However, if citizens want their voices heard, I recommend contacting Sean Galbraith [sgalbraith@proliferategroup.com](mailto:sgalbraith@proliferategroup.com) and Kelly Patzer at [kellyp@haltonhills.ca](mailto:kellyp@haltonhills.ca) to request additional time to comment. I've personally received an extension to Dec. 27.

I've also created [facebook.com/StewarttownCellTower](http://facebook.com/StewarttownCellTower)— a page

where citizens can learn more and share their thoughts and concerns. We may not all agree, but we should all have a chance to be heard.

Kathleen Honey, Georgetown

### Paying it forward

Dear editor,

Recently while dining alone at the Kelsey's in Georgetown, I became the benefactor of a random act of kindness by person(s) unknown.

When the time came to settle accounts with my lovely waitress, I was informed that my bill had been “taken care of” by some fellow diners who wished to remain anonymous. Though pressed, my server kept their confidence.

My first thought was “Why”? I didn't recognize anyone there. Then I was reminded of a movie from 2000 named *Pay It Forward* which illustrated the exponential ripple effect that one random act of kindness created. If you haven't seen it, I highly recommend it.

To the folks who committed this RAK; I heartily thank you for your kindness. It couldn't have come at a

better time. In your honour, I will be making a donation to the Georgetown food bank.

Al Smith, Georgetown

### Concern appreciated

Dear editor,

On Oct. 23 I was leaving a shop on Guelph St., when my car slid into a transport truck passing by.

I was not injured, but the truck sustained wheel damage and my car was pushed onto Guelph Street. A lady witness came to my aid and kindly took photos of the scene with my camera.

I didn't get her name but I think she lives in Brampton and is expecting a child.

I want to say a big thank you for your kindness and time spent with me.

Jean Schoonover, Georgetown

### Letters policy

Letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 150 words and may be edited for content and/or length. Publication is not guaranteed.

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