

## It's no joke

It may not be an easy subject for some people to discuss, but your rump requires attention.

According to the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada, about 23,300 people across the country— 13,000 men and 10,300 women— will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer this year. That's an average of 448 Canadians every week.

In addition, statistics suggest about 9,200 people will die from the disease in 2013.

Screening for colorectal cancer can reduce both the incidences (by identifying and removing pre-cancerous polyps) and mortality.

Despite the obvious advantages of potentially living longer and with a greater quality of life, screening rates remain low.

Perhaps that has to do with the uncomfortable nature associated with that particular region of the body— largely the product of attempts at humour.

But there's nothing funny about dying before you have to.

While the causes of colorectal cancer aren't known, a number of risk factors have been identified.

They include age (it's more common at 50-plus); having a history of polyps, inflammatory bowel disease or other forms of cancer; and anyone with Type II diabetes or is obese.

It's also more prevalent among smokers, heavy drinkers and night shift workers.

Progress has been made in treating colorectal cancer, decreasing the associated death rate and increasing the quality of life for people diagnosed with it.

Don't stick your head in the sand — book a screening appointment today.

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

The Memorial Arena is scheduled for demolition this fall. What should the Town do?

- Find a way to keep all or a portion of the building (68%)
- Demolish the building, but sell bricks and interior elements for the arena fundraising campaign (27%)
- Demolish the 91-year-old building and sell the land to developers (5%)

### The Independent & Free Press

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## Panda Facts!

- Giant Pandas spent 50% of their day eating, 40% of their day sleeping, and the rest of their day doing nothing.
- The visiting Pandas will cost Canadians millions of dollars over the next 5 years, so...



Steve Nease

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### Letters policy

**Letters must include an 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**Anonymous letters will not be published.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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## Letters to the editor

### Readers respond to snowplow operator

Dear editor,

I couldn't agree more with snowplow operator Brian Magee (Feb. 26 letter *The view from inside the snowplow*)

While some citizens of this town have points, others simply do not or at least haven't expressed it maturely yet.

I just want to send a huge thank you to all of Halton Hills snowplow operators. Not only is my street always safe to drive on but I was one of those "lucky" people coming home from the last severe snowstorm after midnight from Acton and couldn't believe how well plowed even the back roads were which helped get me home safely. If anyone knows me I'm very timid of harsh weather condition driving.

Lastly, these dedicated workers DO in fact work around the clock and miss life events. Regardless if they knew about this being part of the job

description, while we're sleeping in warm beds these people are out there making sure we have a safe drive to work the next day.

Shame on the critics for saying its not "good enough". By all means, step up to the plate and let's see you do a better job if you think you have it all figured out.

*Sarah Hayward Georgetown*

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Dear editor,

I have been reading the letters concerning snow removal by the Town. Mr. Magee (Town employee) is correct in his observation that the snowfalls these past weeks were more that we have had for a good number of years. It does seem as though some people have forgotten that winter used to be like this.

I live on a very insignificant rural road. I have found that the snow plowing (and sanding) has been satisfactory and as prompt as ever given the amount of snow that fell over such a short period of time. Unlike Ms. McConnell in the Glen who was plowed out by 10 a.m., we were

plowed out by 2:30 p.m. that Saturday. The same thing happened after the last storm with the plow coming up our street mid-afternoon on Wednesday. Considering the all-day nature of the storm, I felt this to be more than reasonable.

It is very unfortunate that some citizens feel that paying taxes has earned them the right to insult and offend. The only thing missing from the diatribes in the paper was the phrase 'gold plated pension'.

I am quite sure that all these very concerned citizens have been out to clear the fire hydrants on or near their properties of snow and, when the snow melts, they will also be sure to clear all storm drains to prevent flooding. After all, the Town employees are too overpaid and under-worked to bother with these menial tasks.

Thank you, Mr. Magee, for both providing us with a 'view from inside the plow' and for doing a job that few would do. It takes courage to stand up to bullies, you and your colleagues deserve better.

*Annette Graydon, Terra Cotta*