

OPINION

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Items in the news...

Library expansion project: At second glance, Monday's announcement that the Town is postponing the \$11.5-million expansion and renovation of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre and Library really shouldn't have come as the shock it did. The simple fact is, without a new water source (read: the Big Pipe) Halton Hills cannot handle major home development projects. Without these projects there will be no development charges and without those charges there is no money available for new facilities. More and more it's becoming clear that if residents want more arenas, pools, libraries, etc. they may have to change their view of the dreaded Big Pipe or be ready to absorb heavy, heavy tax hikes.

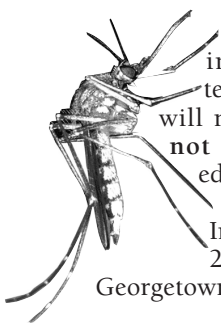
Barber Mill project: For nearly four years Victor Boutin, owner of Everlast Restoration Inc. has been trying to move forward with his plans to restore the former Barber Mill site on River Road. Last week, he announced he has had enough of jumping through bureaucratic hoops and has shelved plans that would have seen a small hotel, shops and a 14-storey condo on the site. While Boutin's plans may have been a bit ambitious for the area, one can't help but feel an opportunity has been lost for the Town to rid itself of an eyesore that has existed for far too long.

Terry Fox runs: The annual Canadian Cancer Society fundraisers are set for Sunday at Acton High School (8 a.m.-3 p.m.) and Gellert Community Park from (9 a.m.-2 p.m.). Pledge forms are available at banks, schools, variety stores and various other locations. Make a donation or participate— just lend your support to fighting this insidious disease.

Election 2007: If you are finding it difficult to get excited about the provincial election at the local level you shouldn't feel bad. When three of the five candidates (Hint: they weren't Tories or Liberals) wishing to become the representative for Wellington-Halton Hills don't even bother to publicly announce they are running, you know it's not an election worth staying awake for.

Something bugging you?

Send us a letter!



Letters to the editor must include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited for content and/or length.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We're not 'making it better', says reader

Dear editor,

The recent theft of the MacSween Memorial Plaque set a new low behavior standard but we should not really be surprised.

For years politicians at all levels of government have been declaring their intention to 'make Canada/the community better'. One must wonder, better for whom? So far, it appears that only criminals, ne'er-do-wells and politicians have it 'better'. It is certainly not better for those who work for a living, pay the country's bills and try to maintain a decent value system.

There was a time when Canada was a place of safety, freedom and

opportunity. It was made so by people from many different nations who came together, not for their own selfish, personal gain first, but for the good of the country and society as a whole to ensure safety and security for future generations.

When politicians set out to make life better (translate: buy votes) society started to come apart at the seams.

Fifty years ago a violent crime committed in Canada sent shock waves across the country. Children played outdoors unsupervised. Courts were not overburdened because people were able to settle their differences in a civilized man-

ner. In small towns like Acton and Georgetown few people locked their doors.

Now after years of 'making it better' there are daily killings. To keep children safe they must be watched every minute. Our courtrooms are revolving doors overflowing with a steady stream of offenders. Schools and universities seem to have become unaffordable baby-sitting services and places of indoctrination where high-tech and social awareness rule and the basic 3Rs are ignored. We must lock our houses, cars and garden sheds and install alarm systems if we want to feel safe.

Is this better?

Still the country is full of people demanding more 'social justice'! Well for those of you who don't remember, we had social justice to the highest possible degree in Canada before people started 'making it better'. The old form of social justice didn't revolve around money and political power, it worked on living by a value system, using common sense and enforcing the laws that protected society.

Do us a favour: stop trying to 'make it better'. Look at where it began to go wrong and start putting the system back in working order. New laws won't make it better but maybe re-instating and enforcing the old laws will.

Huge tax hikes around the corner?

Dear editor,

Some years ago I wrote to this paper about development in Halton Region outstripping our water supply.

I guess the Ontario Municipal Board and whoever else is involved in the approval process either can't do math, or were depending on a miracle to provide the region with additional water supplies. There has been no miracle. Now the talk has switched to bringing in water from filthy Lake Ontario to supply the anticipated development.

My question now is, "Who pays for this scheme"? How about the people who want to develop the land this time and not the existing

taxpayer base?

It ain't gonna happen folks. We're in for double-digit tax hikes real soon.

Count on your taxes being at least 50 per cent higher in five years and more than double in 10. Continuing unbridled development of Halton will be a disaster for all of us, including the people who will be moving here. And water is only one part of the problem.

Do we continue to keep putting the cart before the horse or do we declare a development moratorium until after the support infrastructure is in place to handle it?

Darrel MacCrae
Georgetown

Eileen Hutcherson,
Acton