

Citizens' forum

It's our system of choice

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter, addressed to Rt. Hon. B. Mulrooney, Rt. Hon. J. Turner, Mr. E. Broadbent, Speaker of the Senate, and other interested parties, was submitted to the Herald for publication.

All politicians, including MPs, senators, MPPs and others (groups and individuals), have to acknowledge the fact that with the Nov. 21, 1988 federal election, the Canadian people have spoken. They have decided which political party and leader they wish to be governed by.

Our constitutional parliamentary democracy is based on the principle of one person, one vote, which is translated into the 295 seats in the House of Commons. It is representation by population, and is unlike the Senate which is based on appointment on a regional basis.

Although some constituencies have more voters than other constituencies, each constituency or riding can elect one member of parliament regardless of the number of voters. Prince Edward Island has four seats with a total voting population of about 100,000. In Ontario there are constituencies with over 100,000 voters and according to our democratic system, each of the constituencies can only elect one member of parliament.

Ready for the challenge

Dear Sir,

Recently the Herald reported farewell comments made by Pam Sheldon, a former councillor who many of us have much respect for.

One item of those comments, directed to recreation director Tom Shepard, and I quote: "That he and seniors' organizer Lew Ward together in friendship successfully build a new seniors' centre."

We do not have proportional representation in Canada. This is where the number of seats is in direct proportion to the number of votes gained in an election. If we had this system, then it would be in order to say "a majority of Canadians rejected free trade," since a great portion of the election concentrated on the free trade issue.

Our system is based on the number of the 295 seats won and it is true to say that the Conservatives with 169 seats, have the support of the Canadian electorate. Canadians were free to vote for any one of the parties or independents, and they did. We have to honor the outcome of the general election.

The people have made their choice. The majority of Canadians (75 per cent plus) has decided on the party they wish to lead them in the next five years (not four years). Rt. Hon. Brian Mulrooney and the Progressive Conservatives have received a mandate to implement the Free Trade Agreement.

People who continue to oppose "free trade" should be aware of our political system of government and how it works. We have a representative parliamentary democracy and when a party is elected it makes the decisions for us.

Tom Ramautarsingh

I certainly accept this challenge, or suggestion, however it is interpreted, and I sincerely hope that Mr. Shepard will have seen it in the same light.

What a grand opportunity to make our community a better place to live.

Sincerely,
Lew Ward

Icy roads cause mishaps

Snow and ice-covered roads were factors in several auto accidents last week, say Halton Regional Police.

Saturday at 3:30 a.m., a 1987 Nissan driven by a Georgetown woman, 23, hit a pole after going out of control on Mountainview Road North near King Street. Police say the car received moderate damage. The driver was uninjured. No charges are being laid due to weather conditions.

At 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon, a car driven by a Mississauga man, 24, left the roadway while southbound on First Line near Sideroad 25. Police say the car slid on a "very icy and snow-covered roadway" before striking a tree. No charges were laid.

In Acton Saturday, a 1984 Ford slid through a red light at Main Street North and Mill Street. Police say the car, driven by a Guelph woman, 25, braked, but due to icy roads, slid through the intersection and struck a "no parking" sign. The car was lightly damaged. Police report no injuries in the single-car collision and no charges have been laid.

A collision Thursday at Sideroad 22 resulted in minor injury to a Georgetown woman, 31, and moderate damage to her vehicle, a 1979 Pontiac. Police say the Pontiac slid on an "ice-covered" road and "spun out" before striking a hydro pole. No charges have been laid. The woman was treated and released from hospital.

Owner says enough! House struck again

Hornby resident Mike Dorgo, owner of Town and Country Abattoir, has been living in a motel since a car struck his home nearly two weeks ago.

For the fifth time in the 18 years the Dorgos have owned the Steeles Avenue home, a car has rolled past the stop sign at Old Trafalgar Road, plowed through a guard rail and struck the 75-year-old home on Mr. Dorgo's property.

"It's a very, very bad place. Some people were sleeping in the building at times," said Mr. Dorgo.

The accidents, usually occurring at night, were an inconvenience to the Dorgo family, and meant extensive repairs to the family home. But this time, fixing the residence would be too costly a venture. Some estimates have put the repair bill at \$60,000.

Mr. Dorgo said a building inspector arrived to tell him the house wasn't worth repairing.

Unable to express himself fully in English, an emotional Mr. Dorgo said of the damage to his home "everything is broken, everything is no good."

He said the pipes, heating system and electricity were destroyed in the Nov. 30 incident.

A Georgetown man was injured in the collision when his 1976 Chevrolet "for reasons undetermined... crossed (Steeles Avenue) and struck a guard rail, continued on and ran into the living room at 126 Steeles Ave.," shortly after midnight according to a Halton Regional Police report.

The man, 28, was taken by ambulance to Milton District Hospital and was then transferred to Hamilton General Hospital where he was treated for neck and back injuries.

Police say charges could be laid, pending an investigation.

The Dorgo home on Steeles Avenue still stands, unrepaired with clothing strewn across the foundations, and with portraits still clinging to the living room walls. Remnants of furniture, and household items are slightly sheltered by the second-storey undamaged bedroom structure.

But the house will likely remain unrepaired. "It's in very, very bad shape," said Mr. Dorgo. He said five years ago, the property was zoned industrial. "I need a house, but I don't know what I'll do."



A car driving into this 75-year-old home Nov. 30 trashed the livingroom and its contents, according to police. Homeowner Mike Dorgo said it's the fifth time in 18 years the home has been hit by a vehicle. This time it would be too costly to repair. (Herald photo)

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CRIME STOPPERS

Police track robbers of jewelry store



OF HALTON

Halton police are continuing their search for a male and female who robbed Boughlan Jewellers, 73 Main Street South, Georgetown at 4:40 p.m., Friday, July 8, 1988.

They engaged the two clerks on duty by looking for a gift for a friend. When a display case containing expensive diamond jewelry was opened the male produced a long-barrel, western-style handgun. Twelve to 15 trays of diamond rings and colored stones were placed into two white plastic bags obtained from the store.

The suspects left the store and walked north on Main Street and were then seen running across the parking lot at the rear of 55 Main Street South. They were seen leaving the area in a 1985 or 1986, four-door Volkswagen Jetta, metallic silver, with the female driving.

The male suspect is described as white, 30-35 years, dark complexion, 5'10" - 5'11", 170 pounds, black hair, short black moustache to lip, three or four days growth of beard. Wearing baseball cap, dark sunglasses, blue shorts, light colored golf shirt with three top buttons open exposing hairy chest and pot belly. He was also wearing a tensor bandage on his right arm and wrist.

The female suspect is described as white, 30-35 years, 5'2" - 5'3", 150 pounds, heavy build, round heavy face, wearing baseball cap, large round sunglasses, long black pants, grey/blue pullover. She was also wearing a tensor bandage on her right arm.

Both suspects appeared scruffy and unkempt. Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest in this case or any other case. Callers are not required to reveal their identities or testify in court. The Crime Stoppers toll free number is 1-800-668-5151.

Parents take active role in street proofing kids

Approximately 10 per cent of sexual attacks on children are by strangers, says a Georgetown mother, Children's Aid worker and member of the Kennedy Connection.

But this 10 per cent must be stopped, said Karen Hewer, president of the Kennedy Connection, a parents group formed this year of Georgetown parents. The Kennedy Connection recently presented an evening of streetproofing children with speaker Maureen Craighead.

"The evening was in response to a survey of George Kennedy parents," said Mrs. Hewer. But she added the evening was not "triggered off" by the recent attempted assaults in Georgetown, one involving a young boy and the other, two young girls approached by a man in a car.

But Mrs. Hewer said the incidents did stir up interest in the streetproofing talks.

"The incident involving that little boy suggests an excellent response (to strangers)," said Mrs. Hewer. "The boy was sharp. When told his mother was ill, he said, 'Where do I live?' and the stranger couldn't answer."

"Most of the time, it's better not to respond, but to run," said Mrs. Hewer.

She advises her own six-year-old son to turn to a crossing guard, block parent or home if a stranger is threatening him.

Streetproofing Georgetown, a local organization that folded recently after several years of "arming" children against attackers, could be rekindled, said Mrs. Hewer. The Nov. 9 streetproofing meeting gave parents a sampling of the organization's procedures.

Families were rotated from station to station where they would respond to a simulated approach from a stranger and parents were given information. Mrs. Hewer said if a family is unable to drive a child home from school, a password is a good way to ensure the child is safe with an adult, who was sent by the child's parents.

Const. Sue Delaney from the Halton Regional Police department was at the school to speak to parents and to provide Block Parent applications.

With the survey results indicating that George Kennedy parents are most interested in discussing the issues of streetproofing and drugs, Mrs. Hewer said drug abuse information will soon be available for parents, possibly in the new year.

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