

Editorial

Closed doors raise questions

Vandalism, a noun. According to Funk and Wagnalls standard dictionary: To destroy or deface (property) willfully.

Actually, the word became part of our language after a Germanic tribe, the Vandals, sacked and pillaged Rome in 455.

Vandalism, according to the dictionary definition, still exists today - as witness the constant references to such acts in the Halton Hills Herald's Police beat - and Monday evening Halton Hills Town Councillors and administration officials met with a Halton Region Police Staff Inspector from #1 District, II Division Georgetown, to discuss how to deal with and indeed curb the increasing acts of vandalism that currently plague Halton Hills.

It was a private meeting and Halton Hills Herald reporter, Lisa Rutledge, was informed - in a nutshell - that she could not attend the meeting. In effect, she was barred from the meeting.

To bar her from the proceedings was both presumptuous on the part of town council, town administrators and the representative of the local police force and similarly, a disservice to the community at large.

Wanton and wilful vandalism is both a curse and a plague on countless communities in Canada - Halton Hills is no exception.

Town Council members were reportedly "amazed and flabbergasted" during a General Committee meeting Oct. 1 to learn that vandalism to town property had been estimated in the thousands of dollars - including repair costs.

Halton Hills Mayor, Russ Miller, estimated at the time, that vandalism damage over a three-month period would cost the community approximately \$100,000.

Who will pay for the costs of vandalism? The taxpayer, naturally.

It should follow, therefore, that the taxpayer has the right to know what steps are being taken - or how his/her money is being used - to combat the problem.

Closed door meetings serve no purpose - especially to the common good when public officials are involved.

Closed door meetings don't solve the problem, but they could lead to a frustration build-up where people take the law into their own hands - a situation that no community wants, or needs.

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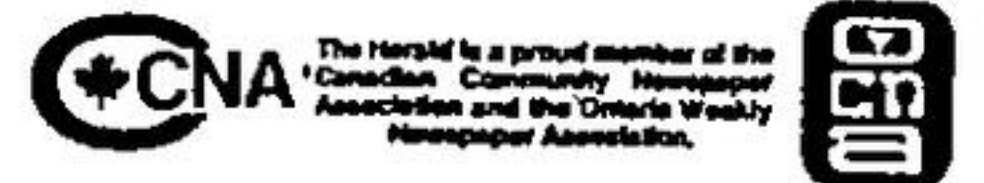
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Letters

Writer supports GST

Editor's note: The following letter was released to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.
Ms. A. McLaughlin MP
600-280 Albert St.
Ottawa, Canada
K1P 9Z9

re: your request for funds to oppose the GST.

Dear Ms. McLaughlin:
I support the GST.
It's better than the existing FST: it's more consistently applied, will be less expensive to administer, is visible, and makes more sense.

The GST is a small but important step in dealing with the federal deficit. Along with environmental problems, the deficit will be the paramount problem this country will face in coming years. Governments must deal with it.

Yes, introducing the GST will be painful to many of us. But our choice is to suffer a little now, or have us, and our children, face much greater suffering in the future.

Yes, the GST means we pay more taxes. But with one-third of all federal Government expenditures going to interest on the national debt, it's not surprising that we get less and less for our tax dollars. If we reduce taxes, then we get even less benefit for our tax dollar because a higher proportion then goes to debt maintenance.

Rather than oppose the GST, we should urge additional ways to reduce the deficit. The GST alone won't solve the deficit problem. Rearranging revenues and expenditures won't solve the problem either. The federal Government has to reduce expenses. For

example, kill financial subsidies to the Canadian fossil fuel industries. We already pay world prices, and fossil fuel is a dead-end street given its environmental impact.

The GST isn't perfect, but it moves in the right direction.

Federal policy lashed

Dear Sir:
I am truly grateful of having received the federal government's "Important Information" 1.3 million dollar flyer on "Canada's Economic Plan."

It does indeed prove what many have suspected for some time, the complete incompetence of the existing autocracy in Ottawa, led by Messrs. Mulroney, Wilson and Crow. Mr. Crow, incidentally, I might add, like our senators, is not elected either, but in effect, controls our economy by virtue of his office, or is it his personality?

We must assume that the figures provided in this document are reasonably true and accurate. The important ones concerning the federal public debt provide the strongest indictment of this government. The accumulation of 200 billion debt from 1970 to 1984 represents an average increase per year of 14.2 billion. This should have been a warning to the incoming Conservatives. Instead, in the next six years the debt increased to 380 billion - an increase of 180 billion at a rate of 30 billion per year!

It is not surprising that the government can boast of the great and outstanding growth in Canada's economy during its time in office. We have been living on borrowed money and are

now individually in debt federally, so the document states, to the extent of \$14,400 per Canadian. It is assumed that "Canadian" includes children and other non-taxpayers. If the figure were per taxpayer, I strongly suspect that it would nearly double. Provincial figures are not included but one can readily assume a total figure per taxpayer, including both categories of some \$30,000 each.

I have analyzed each of the some 20 sections of this information. Most of these are misleading, confusing or inadequately covered. They rarely provide any assurances that this government knows what it is doing, has done, or is capable of undoing. Its power monopoly and arrogance is such that GST wheels have already been set in motion. At this stage, before becoming law, various almost irreversible activities have been initiated. This procedure of predicting and pre-activating legislation before passing both houses is deliberate and coercive and is politically immoral, if not indeed unconstitutional, which it surely should be.

A copy of this has been mailed to Mr. Garth Turner, M.P., Halton North.

Sincerely,
David J. Williams,
Georgetown.

Letter of the Week

Defense course rates raves

Dear Sir:
I would like to inform the women of Halton Hills about a Recreation and Parks Program that I and my daughter enrolled in called "Simply Defense". A course which teaches women how to protect themselves against male attackers.

Women being assaulted has been a fast growing problem in today's society, and far too often the end result is fatal. There are just too many horror stories, such as the Linda Shaw case, happening today.

The "Simply Defense" course we took was taught by Robert Pelletier, a young man obviously dedicated to teaching women how to defend themselves. I can't tell you how impressed I was with his program!

It was approximately 2 1/2 hours, one night a week for four weeks. Time well spent. It's amazing what you learn from this man.

It doesn't make you a martial arts expert or a champion fighter, but it certainly gives a woman a chance to protect herself against an attack.

Robert Pelletier did an excellent job of teaching this basic self defense course and I myself learned so much from him.

I would like to thank you Robert for teaching my daughter and I and giving us the confidence that we do not necessarily have to be the victims. If there was ever an encounter with an attacker, I know we at least have a chance to escape it, because of you. Most of all I would like to thank you for caring about a woman's safety enough to design such a course.

I would highly recommend any woman or young girl to enroll in "Simply Defense". It could save your life.

Nancy Yates
Georgetown

Lions Club is lauded

Dear Editor:
I am writing to you in the hope that you will publish this letter.

On behalf of the patients and residents of the Bennett Health Care Centre I would like to thank Gord Early and the Huttonville Lions Club for their generosity.

Over this past summer, they

supplied both dining rooms with ceiling fans. Their donation gives a new meaning to the term "Cool Seniors."

Yours truly,
Kelly Herbert, RN
Director Residential Care
Georgetown