

# Editorial

## The Halton Hills HERALD

Home Newspaper of Halton Hills - Established 1866

A Division of Canadian Newspaper Company Limited  
45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6

K. ROBERT MALCOLMSON  
Publisher and General Manager

877-2201

EDITORIAL — COLIN GIBSON  
Managing Editor  
ROB RISK  
Sports Editor  
Staff Writers: Ben Dummett and Lisa Rutledge

ADVERTISING — DAN TAYLOR, MANAGER  
Jeannine Valois, Stacie Roberts, Craig Teeter, Kim Maryott

PRODUCTION — DAVE HASTINGS, MANAGER  
Myles Gilson, Susanne Wilson, Stu Robertson

CLASSIFIED — Joan Mannall

CIRCULATION — Marie Shadbolt

ACCOUNTING — Jennie Hapichuk, Accountant and Inga Shier

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Halton... \$54.00 year  
\$29.00 six months  
\$16.00 three months

Canada... \$90.00 year  
\$46.00 six months  
\$27.00 three months

Foreign... \$170.00 year  
\$ 90.00 six months  
\$ 50.00 three months

Second Class Mail  
Registered No. 0934

**CNA** The Herald is a proud member of the Canadian Community Newspaper Association and the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association.

The Herald claims copyright on all original news and advertising material created by its employees and published in this newspaper. National Advertising offices: 65 Queen St. W., Toronto, Ontario M5H 2M8, 864-1710 or 640 Cathcart St., Montreal, Quebec.

The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

# Vandalism! a bane on communities

It is about time the collective powers-that-be in the Town of Halton Hills - and indeed, Halton Region - stopped procrastinating and passing the buck on the bane of our community, namely 'vandalism.'

The most recent incidence of senseless vandalism occurred at the Love and Christ food bank located in the basement of Mountainview Baptist Church in Georgetown.

Food items meant for the needy were stolen. But the low-lives who had broken into the church didn't stop there. Oh no, they had to further cheapen their cowardly act by destroying food they obviously couldn't cart away and vandalizing the church property itself.

The incident, and it's mindlessness, shocked the community of Halton Hills - and rightly so.

The food bank incident was just another step up the ladder of vandalism that is plaguing Halton Hills and in a nutshell, nothing is being done to counteract the problem.

At an Oct. 1st meeting of town council, Mayor Russ Miller expressed shock at learning that vandalism to public property was costing the community so much money - which he estimated to be close to \$100,000 for 1990. In his own words, "I'm amazed to learn the amount of money vandalism is costing the town."

A closed door meeting with #1 District, 11 Division Georgetown Halton Region Police Staff Inspector Richard Kivell was convened supposedly to discuss vandalism but according to sources who attended the meeting, the issue received little priority.

Then came the Oct. 30th 'Devil's Night' incident in Acton, which was vandalism at its worst, where the core of Acton was taken over by hooligans.

The upshot of this incident was reports from police and town council that it "wouldn't be allowed to happen again." Close the barn door after the horse has bolted theory - you've still lost the horse.

There is a town bylaw in place offering rewards to people who turn in vandals who are subsequently convicted and there was supposed to be a campaign initiated by town council to inform residents of this fact. What happened to the campaign?

In a story appearing in this edition of the Halton Hills Herald, Insp. Kivell, once again appears to put vandalism at the bottom of the totem pole in terms of police priority.

Similarly, Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Halton Hills, Tom Shepard, appears to lay blame on residents for not taking a more active role in the fight against vandalism.

If this is leadership, we're all in trouble.

We offer these suggestions in the fight against community vandalism.

It doesn't take a statistical genius to figure out what times and areas vandalism occurs in our community. Police should beef up patrols during those times and in those areas. Even if it means patrolling with red lights flashing.

The town should indeed launch a publicity campaign to stamp out vandalism but take things a step further.

Any person, regardless of age, convicted of an act of vandalism to town property, should be barred for a year from town facilities. This would include arenas, swimming pools, tennis courts and park facilities including baseball diamonds.

The ban could be lifted, if - and when - the convicted vandal performed a certain number of hours in community service.

Think of all the youngsters who would think twice about committing an act of vandalism if they knew they wouldn't be able to play hockey for a year, or swim during the summer, or play baseball or softball.

Think of all the adults who would think twice about committing an act of vandalism if they realized they couldn't play recreational hockey or slo-pitch or who had to explain to their youngsters that they couldn't take them to an event because they (the adults) were barred from the facility.

Similarly, a list of convicted vandals barred from town facilities should be posted in a prominent place in the facilities explaining why the person had lost the right to avail himself/herself of community facilities.

These suggestions would not cost the community very much in terms of extra funding, but it would get the message across that vandalism won't be tolerated in Halton Hills.

It is time to do something about this blight on our community. The talking stage is over. What is needed is action.



## People's Forum

### Letter of the Week

# Shackles bind politicians

Editor's note: A copy of the following letter was released to the Halton Hills Herald for publication.

Dear Mr. Turner:  
Your booklet, entitled "What If" recently received in the mail, I found to be most interesting. At your request, I am responding to your suggestion not so much because, for the most part, I am in agreement but rather to give vent to views which, up until now, have been contained and thus allowed to smolder and ferment with ever-increasing dissatisfaction.

On page sixteen of your booklet you touched on one of the hinge-pins of democracy as we have come to know it in the Western World and which is based on the fallacy that politicians act on behalf of the people they claim to represent. You yourself are a prime example of this; the ideas you have expressed make sense, they are fair and reasonable and if adopted would certainly contribute to the re-establishment of a more viable

economy. But, here is the rub. How many of these proposals would ever see the light of day in Ottawa? By your own admission, "M.P.s have to vote along party lines too often" and for this reason I have little or no use for government based on party politics, which, by its very nature, is fraught with corruption, exposed to the machinations of power politics and highly vulnerable to the inescapable pressures of lobby groups.

I am not a political scientist but would venture to suggest that at some point in time party politics was completely unknown and thus, any man who was chosen to represent his fellow man did so knowing he was free as well as duty bound to vote as his conscience dictated.

In recent months the media has repeatedly reported that governments (at all levels) do not listen to the public, that Ottawa or Queen's Park is the sole judge of what is good for the electorate and that they have been given a mandate to rule; this could well

be true but only if the elected representatives are free to speak their minds and this they cannot do as long as they retain party allegiance.

You ask for help and suggestions towards solving the problems of government; I will give you one idea if you dare to follow it; fight for the independence of Members of Parliament, aim for the total destruction of the party machine and in so doing, remove the shackles that bind those who seek to represent us. Only in this way will we move a big step closer to the ideal and thereby banish so many of the inequities and injustices rampant in government today.

Finally, it is interesting to note that, in Plato's 'Republic', government by the philosophical elite was considered the ideal. By this method it was judged that the good of the people was best served by those who were more inclined to govern without bias.

Yours truly,  
James J. DeSylva,  
Georgetown.

# P.O.W.E.R. says thanks

To the Editor:  
On behalf of POWER (Protect Our Water and Environment Resources) I would like to thank the community for their support of our Halloween costumes dance October 27. The dance was held to raise funds in the fight to protect

the Georgetown water supply by stopping a dump, for garbage from outside of Halton, from being located in the Limehouse quarry. The event was a great party.

A special thanks to the local retailers who provided costume

prizes, namely the Dairy Queen, House of Buddha, J.V. Clothing, Living Lighting, 9th Line Food Emporium, Hut and R.E. McCall M

Sincerely,  
Donna Robin,  
Georgetown.