

# Opinion

## Sick situation

As much as we sympathize with the legitimate aspirations of the aboriginal peoples in Canada and support their cause, we cannot condone violence as a means of settling the issues.

The fact that Mohawk Warriors were carrying lethal weapons in the Oka dispute for more than self-defence suggests some of them anyway are determined to force the federal government into actions few people on either side want.

We have heard that some native leaders feel justified in using assault weapons and other tools of armed conflict to defy Canadian authorities. They say they are a sovereign nation and have never relinquished their sovereignty to Canada, thus are able to set their own laws.

But violence or physical intimidation are not acceptable in this democracy. Those who resort to it are going to face the police or the armed forces if they persist in their folly. Inevitably tragedy will result.

This week we saw television film where natives were throwing rocks and punching and kicking Canadian soldiers who were, in turn, firing tear gas into the crowd. It was a pitiful sight, close to resembling the Israel-Arab confrontation in Palestine.

A couple of weeks ago we saw residents of the Oka area stoning women, children and elderly men as they were being transported to safety outside the reserve. Nine of the stone throwers have been charged but the sight of these goons attempting to harm unarmed Indian people was enough to make us sick.

This type of confrontation cannot go on. It's a powder keg waiting to explode unless strong initiatives are taken on issues affecting the aboriginal peoples.

Certainly the issues here are not simple. They revolve around more than land claims. They include cigarette smuggling, gambling casinos and intimidation amongst the Indians themselves. The task is going to be sorting out legitimate grievances from those which are outside the law.

Nevertheless it must be done with justice to both sides and justice must also be seen to have been done. —H.C.

## Putting things in perspective

By H.J. SMITH

OMAF Farm Management Specialist

Canadians have come to expect and enjoy a high standard of living. There are many benefits to this situation and we should consider ourselves fortunate. One drawback of having few real problems is that we now have the luxury of seeking out things to worry about. The food safety issue is a prime example. Nothing in life is risk free and food is no exception.

Let's put some of the figures that are often quoted regarding risk into perspective: One in a million, or 1/1,000,000. You have a one in a million chance of death if you:

- drive 60 miles in your car
- fly 400 miles
- are a 60 year old man for 20 minutes
- mountain climb for 2 1/2 minutes
- smoke 3/4 of a cigarette

One part per billion is equivalent to 2.2 seconds of the average human lifetime or 15" from the earth on your way to the moon.

"What you consume can be dangerous, but the danger is not from food quality," Dr. Ian Munro from the Canadian Centre of Toxicology states. "Seventy per cent of deaths are due to alcohol, smoking and overeating, one per cent are due to food additives."

Food is safe, let's get things in perspective.



## AUTUMN SUNSHINE

### Our Readers Write

## Cotton versus disposable diapers

Dear editor,

This is in response to C. Roffel from Glen Williams: "Disposable Diapers Not Culprits." First of all, due to a misprint in the article, a used disposable diaper weighs seven ounces, not seven pounds. This was a source of amusement in many homes with babies, I'm sure!

Secondly, as any one will agree, a newborn baby should be changed more often than only six times a day. At least eight or ten changes are required, as recommended by the hospitals. This not only keeps the baby more comfortable, but reduces the risks of developing rashes. Even at an average of seven changes per day, that translates to 6,387 diapers used in the two and a half year time up to toilet training.

If each diaper weighs an approximate amount of 7 ounces, this means that one baby is dumping 1.4 tons of extra garbage in our landfill sites. Alarming? I think so! Suddenly that "extra bag each week for a couple of years" has taken on monstrous proportions!!

To add to the horror of it all, in a study done by Dr. William Rathje of the University of Arizona, it was found that over 35% of the disposable diapers

contained fecal matter. The study concluded that "few, if any, of these diapers had been rinsed or emptied into the toilet."

Dr. Rathje goes on to state that "vehicle transmission (disease transmission through food, water, blood) could occur from littered single-use diapers near streams, or stationary water supplies. Finally, vectorborne transmissions, or transmissions by insects, rodents, birds, are possible whenever waste is exposed at landfills." Furthermore, viruses from inoculated babies can live up to two full weeks in fecal matter.

So, C. Roffel of Glen Williams, I only hope that you have come to appreciate the pressing urgency that we as adults face. In our "throw-away" society, we are creating a world for our children that is filling up with contaminants and disease, and while the diapers from one baby may not seem to amount to much in the total picture, we must be aware of the effects of many who share your line of thinking. There is no alternative. Switch to cotton diapers to save your child's world.

Mary Jane Madonia,

The Indisposables Cotton Diaper Company.

## Acknowledges support with thanks

Dear editor,

Summer has quickly passed by again and I would like to acknowledge two groups whose support helped provide an enjoyable, busy summer for our 13-year-old youngster.

Thanks to the Town of Milton Leisure Services for funding "Young Adults Unlimited"—a summer recreational program for physically and mentally handicapped teenagers. With much enthusiasm, the young co-ordinator and staff accept the responsibility and challenge of caring for and having fun with ten participants from the Georgetown and Milton area. Thank you to Cindy and her staff.

Special thanks to "Make-A-Wish" of Halton Hills, one of our benefactors, who provide extra funds for a special year-end trip. This summer a three-day trip to Niagara Falls and Marineland ended a busy seven-week program. Other day

trips included a Blue Jay game at the Sky Dome, Ontario Place and Pioneer Village.

Developmentally handicapped members of our community now look forward to long term family and community care. There are many families in the North Halton area quietly providing daily care for their special children and adults. Community respite programs for summer and weekend hours are so important in helping us continue to meet this long-term responsibility.

We will continue to need long-term community support to help us meet the challenges in providing an integrated family and community life for our special needs youngsters.

Thanks again for a busy summer for Tom and his buddies.

Sincerely,  
Valda May,  
R.R.#2 Norval

THE GEORGETOWN INDEPENDENT /  
THE ACTON FREE PRESS

# WEEKEND

KEN BELLAMY  
Publisher

211 ARMSTRONG AVE., L7G 4X5  
GEORGETOWN, ONT. (416) 873-0301

The Georgetown Independent /The Acton Free Press Week End, published every Saturday at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, Barrie Banner Advance, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Erin-Hillsburgh Echo, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, The Rockwood-Eramosa Review, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune, The Willowdale Mirror. Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate.

In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at the wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell which may be withdrawn at any time.

Editorial and advertising content to Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press Week End is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.

Price: Store copies 50¢ each; subscription \$19 per year by carrier; \$52 per year by mail in Canada; \$75 per year in all other countries.

EDITORIAL - 1-800-268-8719  
Managing Editor: Hartley Coles  
Staff Writers: Cynthia Gamble, Robin Inscow, Paul Dorsey, Dan Ralph, Stuart Johnston, Janet Baine, Scott Kline. Photography: Ted Brown

BUSINESS OFFICE - 1-800-268-8719  
Manager: Jean Shewell  
Accounting: Pat Kentner, Sherry Mitchell, Bev Nelissen

ADVERTISING - 1-800-268-8719  
Director of Advertising: Lorne Beechener  
Advertising Manager: Beth Snelgrove  
Display Sales: Charmaine Letts, Doug Sawyer, Tammy Salt  
Telemarketing: Jeanette Cox  
Real Estate Sales: Kathy Toth  
National Representative: Dal Browne 493-1300

CLASSIFIED - 1-800-268-8719  
Manager: Carol Hall  
Staff: Barb Izzio, Arlene Bellamy

DISTRIBUTION/CIRCULATION/SUBSCRIPTIONS - 1-800-268-8719  
TORONTO LINE - 451-9024  
Manager: Nancy Geissler  
Staff: Mark Prevost, Jean Brander, Mark Esposito  
COMPOSING MANAGER: Steve Foreman