

Opinion

Service in jeopardy

This month, as the Provincial government promotes Wife Assault Prevention Month, Halton Women's Place and 10 other Ontario shelters for abused women and their children are facing a financial crisis which may soon affect their ability to continue providing service.

The shelters in Kitchener, Cambridge, Guelph, Hamilton, Welland, Haldimand-Norfolk, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Brantford and Halton have come together to protest the lack of government support.

None of the shelters has received any of the \$20.3 million promised by the Provincial government in May to combat male violence, and yet the need for their services continues to grow.

And if shelters are forced to reduce service, the toll for communities will be substantial. In Canada in 1989, 119 women were killed by their partners. In 1990, 52 per cent of Canadian women who were killed were killed by their partners, and thousands of women and children were injured and traumatized as a result of male violence.

Ten months into 1991, Halton Women's Place has been contacted by 1,053 women and children. The situation is the same across the province where shelters are delivering more and more services with no increase in funding.

Like most shelters, Halton Women's Place offers essential services, for which it receives no funding. These include staffing a 24-hour crisis line and providing crisis intervention and supportive counselling for abused women in the community. Over the years, shelters have continually responded to the needs in their communities and demands to provide more and more services. However, chronic underfunding by successive Provincial governments have forced many shelters to face deficits as they strive to continue to provide safe shelter to abused women and children.

This month, Wife Assault Prevention Month, shelters are bracing for even more calls from women as the Province launches its annual awareness campaign. Since no shelter will refuse service to women and children in need, they are pleading with the current government to honor its promise to increase funding to shelters.

Courtesy Halton Women's Place

Statfacts...

Canadian travellers to the United States tend to stay longer than do Americans visiting Canada. According to Statistics Canada, the average number of nights per trip was stable in 1989 at four nights for Americans travelling to Canada and at eight nights for Canadians visiting the United States. In addition, almost 20 per cent of all American overnight trips to Canada were for one-night only, while only 12 per cent of Canadian visits were for one-night only.

* * * * *

Statistics Canada reports that Ontario is the most popular destination for both American and non-American visitors to Canada, responsible for 43 per cent of Canada's overnight visits. British Columbia (including the Yukon and NWT) was second at almost 23 per cent and Quebec was third at almost 18 per cent.

* * * * *

Canadians visiting the United States tend to be drawn to the states which are closest to our largest urban centres. The most popular region was the Middle Atlantic states which includes New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, followed by the Pacific Region and the New England states. The sunny state of Florida hosted Canadian visitors for 43 million nights, representing 37 per cent of all nights spent by Canadians in the United States.



REMEMBER WHEN?

Town of Acton employees J. Van den Brink and Matt Johnston were proud of their new garbage truck as they demonstrated the loading technique back in November of 1965.

Our Readers Write

Ousted councillor offers perspective

Dear editor,

I would like to thank all those people who over the past six years believed in and supported me. Your words of encouragement and advice were an inspiration through the long hours of reading or attending meetings on behalf of the Town of Halton Hills.

Council to me was never approached lightly. It was a serious business dealing with many complex issues that there are no serious answers to.

If I was pro-development, then those applicants that I led to defeat, or those whose plans I helped modify, would seriously disagree.

For those applications I supported, I did so because they met the test on a social, economic or physical basis. They were applications that did not pollute, like the Whaley's Corners group would suggest; they did not deplete water resources, as the Hickory Falls group would imply; or they were in Provincial jurisdiction, as members of FOAD, EAGLE or ICE should know or choose to ignore.

If I do have a fault, it is that I care about the personal rights that are slowly slipping away, and about the economic reality facing this Town, Province and country. We are a spoiled lot who that forgotten some of our basic principles of friendship and understanding. Strange thoughts of the '60s keep popping up in my head, such as, "Some see things and say 'why?' and I see things and say, 'why not?'"

I congratulate all the new members of council and those that entered the race; you have my respect. It is your turn to carry the burden of political office, with all the cynicism of the public.

One credo I have always had is that you do what you think is right because you are the one who has to look at yourself in the mirror the next day, and I know that I can.

Thanks again,
Joe Hewitt,
Halton Hills

Remember the native voices on D-Day?

Dear editor,

On Remembrance Day, I always think of two friends I went to school with — Ken, who died at sea during the war, and Billy Wood, who was fortunately saved when the Royal Oak went down in combat. When he came home, he was able to wear his sailor cap with "Royal Oak" on the front. Our town, Redhill, was known for its sailors, as we were quite close to the sea.

I'm writing this letter because I feel so terribly ashamed of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and MPs of all three parties, not forgetting the Senate, because no place was made for native Canadians at the national Remembrance Day ceremony. They asked to attend and the answer was "no."

Does any member recall hearing something about the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944? I will always remember listening to the BBC wireless about how bad things were on D-Day. There were tanks

and trucks going through our town to the sea, lorries full of troops waving to everyone and us waving back.

Often the BBC would interrupt the music for a newscast, and they announced that Canadian troops had made a great breakthrough and surprised the Germans. All this was thanks to Canadian natives who decided to communicate on the radio in their own tongue. This was a language the Germans had never heard. They saved the lives of many Canadians and Americans, but these same people were not allowed to take part in the Remembrance ceremony in Ottawa.

May I suggest self-government for our natives, and don't mention 10 years — now.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kathleen (Molly) Crowhurst,
Georgetown

Halton Hills

WEEKEND

The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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

The Halton Hills Weekend, published every Saturday, at 211 Armstrong Ave. Ont. is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, The Barrie Advance, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Collingwood Connection, The Georgetown Independent, The Etobicoke Guardian/Lakeshore Advertiser, Halton Hills Week End, Kingston This Week, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Oakville Beaver, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Peterborough This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, Today's Seniors, The Uxbridge/Stouffville Tribune. 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. Plus G.S.T.

EDITORIAL - 873-0301
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Robin Inscow
EDITOR: Cynthia Gamble,
Staff Writers: Paul Dorsey, Stuart Johnston, Janet Baine.
Photography: Ted Brown

BUSINESS OFFICE - 873-0301
Manager: Carol O'Grady
Accounting: Pat Kentner, Bev Nelissen

ADVERTISING - 873-0301
Director of Advertising: Shaun Sauve
Advertising Manager: Sandra Dorsey
Display Sales: Penny Karas, Jackie Mullen, Charmaine Letts
Telemarketing: Jeanette Cox
Real Estate Sales: Kathy Toth
National Representative: Dal Browne 493-1300
CLASSIFIED - 873-0301
Manager: Carol Hall

DISTRIBUTION/CIRCULATION/SUBSCRIPTIONS - 873-0301
TORONTO LINE - 798-7950
Director of Distribution: Ian McAllister
Circulation Manager: Nancy Geissler

COMPOSING MANAGER: Steve Foreman