

THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

KEN NUGENT
Publisher

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Don't use your vote for protest

Dear editor:

It is a sad state of affairs when polls show that as many as one in three Canadians will cast protest votes for either the Reform Party or the Bloc Quebecois.

It is a difficult job for any political party to run this country of ours and I am not sure if anyone has "the key". As a voter, it is easy to be disheartened and easy to criticize, but when your party gets power - reality sets in. Just look at Bob Rae's government. They were largely elected on a protest vote and look what happened! Political agendas go out the window and those who made their protest vote, join loudest in the chorus of criticism.

The other scary prospect with this election, is that we could end up with a government elected more by default than by choice. The fact that this will be a Liberal Government is not important.

My message is: vote for the person or party you choose but make it a positive vote. Finally, when you vote for an alternate party, have a look at the end result to see who your decision will benefit.

Happy voting
Brenda Sisnett

Letters

to the Editor

Speak your mind

Dear editor:

As you are probably well aware of by now, I have recently been on a letter writing crusade in regards to politicians and Canada's political system. When presented with my letters for their valued opinions, my wife and my coworkers have taken to rolling their eyes back in their heads, indicating 'oh no, John's off on another politics bashing tangent.'

If every Canadian citizen wrote one letter per month to their political representatives, party leaders or to the media, stating their dissatisfaction with the government's policies or actions, I am sure that politicians would pay attention.

Our present governments get away with all the damage causing policies they bestow upon us only because the majority do not speak out, but instead wait passively for changes to miraculously happen. Come on people, we live in a democracy where the majority opinion is supposed to rule. Speak up, make your political representatives accountable.

It is not for ourselves that we

must demand changes to our present political system, it is for our children and future generations of Canadians. Only by reacting as a majority can we effectively do so. Sitting passively on the sidelines does not get your opinions heard and does nothing but take a voice away from the true majority, leaving the minority to politically, and indeed actually, control our lives.

In closing, I say, come on Canadians, get involved. Write your letters. Telephone your MP or MPP on a regular basis. Make sure your opinion is heard. Make a difference. Our children will be the ones to suffer if you don't.

John D. McConnell

Spraying was the real culprit

Dear editor:

Re: Margaret Helson's letter concerning her noisy dogs ("Pups are sorry", Sept. 26). Ms. Helson could have avoided the entire incident had she noted what initially caused it. Having her garden "cared for" by chemical poison is deadly to the soil, air, water plants, animals and people around us. There is more at stake than the welfare of her pets when she calls The Weedman. I, for one, would be more grateful to Ms. Helson if she apologized for and stopped this practice, which is far more damaging in the long run than two barking dogs.

Anne Johnson

Thicker skin

We respect Councillor Rob Heaton's right to make a fair comment on issues, particularly if he is representing the rights of his Ward 2 constituents.

However Mr. Heaton must respect that other people have that right too. Also, as a public official he will come under fire occasionally for his views. He should accept the comments for what they are or make an attempt to bridge the gap with better understanding. But instead Mr. Heaton prefers to threaten legal action, this being the case over his comments, and subsequently a citizen's comment on the Market Value Assessment report.

As a public official we suggest Mr. Heaton might develop a thicker skin before threatening legal action towards the media, the town council, and local citizens over issues.

If Mr. Heaton's aim is truly to create better understanding, to provide an alternative voice in Halton Hills, and to serve his electorate, he could do better than to keep threatening legal action.

Feeding the hungry

More than 2,500 children in Halton are assisted by food banks every month, according to the Halton Social Planning Council. The group also estimates that a family of four spends almost \$7,000 buying basic food stuffs every year. As more people struggle with payments, more are requiring the services of the volunteer manned and supported food banks.

To meet the growing demand, food and money donations are desperately needed at the Acton Foodshare food bank. The food bank has sent a call out to local churchgoers to bring in donations when they attend service today which is National Food Day.

Local residents responded to the Thanksgiving spirit last week by donating food to both the Georgetown and Acton food banks, but hunger must always be fed.



Whine, whimper and moan of Canadians

Canada is a multicultural society. There is no argument about that. You can hear its citizens complaining in dozens of languages and accents.

Multiculturalism represents the celebrating of diversity over consolidation. We should not be surprised that this leads to disunity. You cannot steadily erode every symbol of national unity and then wonder why it no longer exists.

The melting pot was always an illusion. Differences forever remain. But the mosaic idea will not work, unless there is a strong glue of Canadian identity to hold it together. We have so few truly

national symbols. Those we do have are being constantly chipped away. Many Canadians who have never set foot on a train, still feel a kinship to the railways that truly created this country. Others have honored the CBC without much watching or listening to it, but they want it there. They are symbols of Canada. Both have been eviscerated by the federal government.

We are woefully ignorant of our own history. We have few heroes and don't seem much to want any.

Parliament is a disgrace. A few minutes watching Question Period could turn a thinking person against democracy. The senate is obsolete.

Patricia Hretchka

We should reform the former and abolish the latter.

There are many parts of the Canadian fabric that need repair. But Canada is more than the sum of its parts. It is one of the truly blessed countries on the planet. If

we would stop whining and look around the world, we would certainly realize that.

Last year we were chosen by a United Nations study as the best place on earth to live. This year, we have slipped to second place. But in this whole wide world, second place is not bad. As a UN official remarked, "Many countries in the world would like to inherit your problems."

But do we appreciate our good fortune?

No. Canadians obviously do not deserve Canada. We are too busy hurtling across the border to buy cheap toaster ovens and booze. We

are occupied with American sitcoms and rock stars. We concentrate on Canada only to complain.

Around the world, many nations are mired in war, famine and plague. We are beset with the GST and we snivel and whine. Of course, things could be better. But if we spent less time assigning blame and more time coming up with solutions, maybe we could realize the stunning potential that is Canada.

Actually, the major drawback to living in this wonderful country is having to put up with the carping and complaining of Canadians.

Patricia Hretchka is a freelance writer from Georgetown.