

## We should know

As a founder of modern policing, Sir Robert Peel once said, the police and the community are one. No they are not.

The police operate under a different set of rules especially when it comes to transparency. When a member of the public is accused of a crime, he or she goes under investigation. Names are made public. The media writes stories.

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is called when a police officer (or officers) is involved in possible misconduct, or activity that involves injury or death. The information gleaned from an SIU investigation isn't so transparent. Names are generally not made public. The media is stymied although the SIU does name officers once charged with criminal wrongdoing.

Information from SIU investigations often sit in the Attorney General's office. There's no mandate to answer public inquiries, or tell why a police officer has been cleared of criminal charges although the SIU does issue releases explaining its decision to charge or to clear involved officers. This seems contrary to the spirit of Peel's principles. He envisioned an open force.

So why is information from an SIU investigation being stifled? Last week, the Crown intervened and stayed a charge against a Peel officer (Jennifer Whyte) after it was shown she was not responsible for a stray bullet that lodged in the back of Humber College student Suzan Zreik.

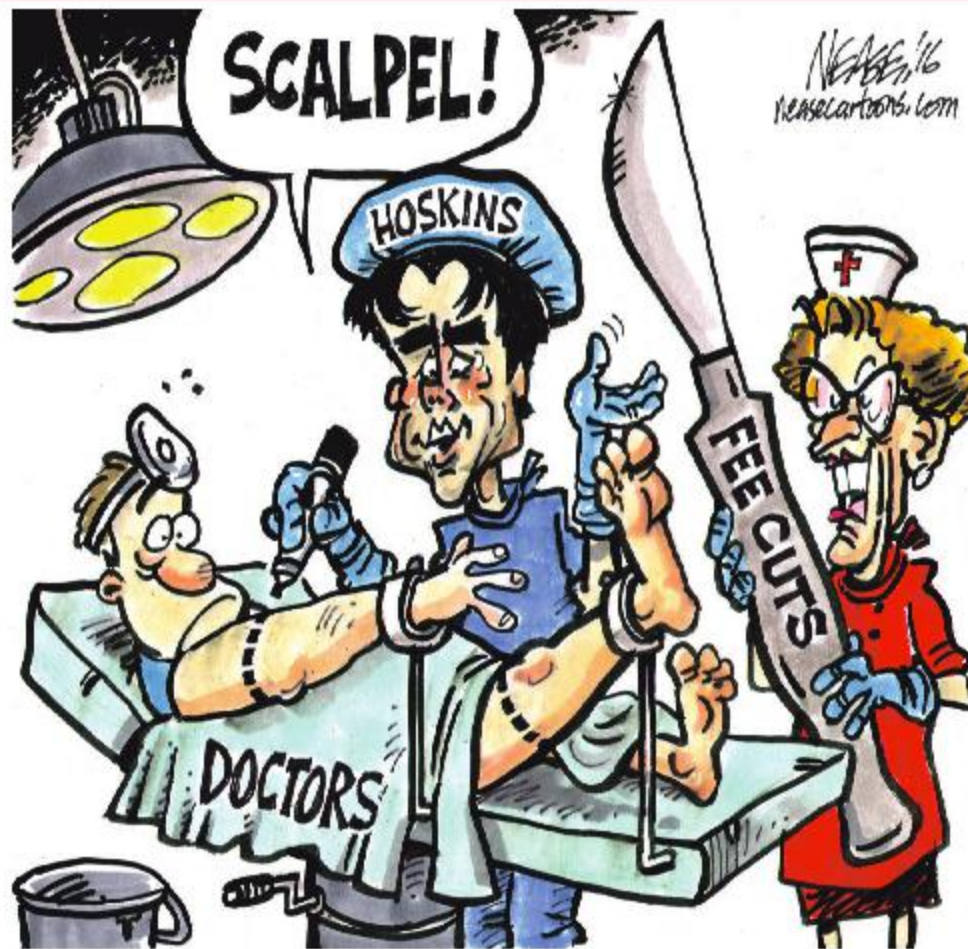
She was hit during a fatal shooting last year in Mississauga. This led to an SIU investigation involving Whyte and two colleagues. The SIU has never released the names of the involved officers, but did release Zreik's to the public. Why? The police watchdog also has never made it public which officer shot Zreik, an innocent bystander.

Zreik hired a lawyer to represent her in a private charge against Whyte. He was surprised to learn last week that Whyte's gun was not responsible for Zreik's injury.

A Crown spokesperson confirmed that Whyte has been cleared in the incident. The investigation also found no reason to discipline any officer in the killing of Marc Ekamba-Boekwa. So why wasn't info from the SIU investigation made public, so Zreik and her lawyer didn't waste court time?

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## Letters to the editor

### Liberals dropped the ball on electricity file

The Ontario Liberal government is certainly being disingenuous with their recent announcement about the electricity rate increase effective May 1, claiming that the average household hydro bill will be only going up by an average of \$3.13 per month.

What they didn't tell us that this is compared to the previous rates for this past winter only.

If they were truthful to us, they would actually compare the rates to what we were paying on May 1, 2015, which was two price increases ago, to get the annual increase. If you compare the Peak, Mid-Peak and Off Peak rates to what we were paying 12 months ago, the increases are 11.8 per cent for Peak, 8.2 per cent for Mid and 8.8 per cent for Off Peak rates.

And this does not factor in the elimination of the Clean Energy Benefit discount which adds 10 per cent to everyone's hydro bill and a massive increase

in delivery charges on top of these increases. I have analyzed my hydro bills for the first three months of 2016 vs. the same three months of last year.

I have decreased my hydro use by 5.5 per cent, yet my monthly hydro bills have gone up by an average of over \$35 or over 20 per cent over this same period.

The Ontario Liberals have mismanaged the electricity file to the point where many citizens, especially our senior citizens on fixed incomes, are facing hardships due to runaway electricity costs.

Bill Roest,  
Ballinafad

### I hope you never need CASHH

Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASHH) I hope you never need them but I guarantee you will know someone in your life that will.

Three months after retiring in 2015 at the age of 55, I was shocked to find out that I had lung cancer. I had no symptoms and was only diagnosed by ac-

cident at a walk-in clinic. Not really having dealt with the disease in my life, I didn't know where to turn but I was referred to CASHH by a good friend of mine. What a blessing.

CASHH has an amazing staff of volunteers and operates out of 222 Mountainview Rd. N., in Georgetown and serves only residents of Halton Hills. They provide practical support to cancer patients and their families. All of their services are provided at no cost to clients and include driving to and from doctors and hospital appointments, patient support and other needs too many to mention.

There is nothing nice about cancer but meeting these people and the assistance and their kindness has made my battle so much easier to deal with.

If you have ever had to take chemotherapy or radiation, it can be very traumatic. If you add to the unknown and fear of going through it, you also have to deal with the nausea that often times can accompany this and driving to appointments can be challenging. CASHH's drivers are one-on-one, unlike the Canadian Cancer Society. These drivers are the most caring and patient people you will ever meet. April is their largest donation drive and any size donation is appreciated.

Fay Newman,  
Acton