

## We must be vigilant

It's hard to view anywhere in the City of Orlando as a killing field. This city is a vacation hot spot and home to Disney World. It's a place for fun and families, and the giant theme park allows all visitors to tap into their inner child.

A lone gunman named Omar Mateen shattered that innocence by mowing down 49 people. It is the deadliest mass shooting in American history.

This so-called soft target seems even softer because of Orlando's connection to Disney.

It's still unclear how Mateen was allowed to slide past the gaze of police investigators. He was well known to FBI officials. Which begs two questions: How could such an unstable man with ties to a radical ideology a) acquire an assault weapon primarily used in war, and b) how could someone with such a spotty background be employed by a security firm, thus giving him even easier access to assault weapons?

Surprisingly, however, some citizens in Canada can purchase the AR-15 assault rifle he used in Orlando. While gun laws are more stringent here, we have to be resolute in keeping those types of guns out of the hands of people that might do us harm.

That, too, is becoming more difficult.

The gun registry introduced by Jean Chretien's Liberals proved extremely costly, and was tossed out by Stephen Harper and the ruling Conservatives.

It's also alarming what is happening right in Peel Region. In 2015, Brampton and Mississauga had 23 shooting victims, and there were 39 confirmed incidents of shots being fired. By the end of April 2016, gun violence has taken four lives in the two cities, and one victim was 17.

During April of this year, there were three shootings in Brampton alone.

While our gun violence pales to that in the U.S., the proliferation of guns there impacts us here because many are smuggled into Canada.

The technology to build better killing machines guns, long rifles, etc. continues unabated. The radicalization of homegrown terrorists either at home or in an ISIS camp is also ongoing. And the Internet is still a landing pad for haters.

That makes the job for our law enforcement officers even harder.

But it should steel the resolve of Canadian lawmakers to make it next to impossible to get a gun or an assault rifle.

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## Letters to the editor

### CASHh grateful for the local support

The success of CASHh is a reflection of good people working together.

This journey begins with volunteers. Our community excels in kindness and we are blessed with those that look for opportunities to make a difference.

Our annual door to door campaign in April was a huge success.

I would like to thank Marilyn Inglis for leading the campaign with such a happy, willing spirit.

It takes months of hard work and energy to plan and carry out this big deed.

Of course it wouldn't get done without the office helpers, area chair-people, captains, canvassers, walkers and those who delivered and picked up signs all over town.

Thanks for believing in us and supporting us.

We appreciate the local businesses

and churches who gave up their own advertising marquee to send a message of support.

Our generous donors responded to exceed our goal of over \$110,000. Thanks for investing in CASHh as a local, trusted charity for people with cancer.

Providing programs free when cancer strikes is a gift and comfort from your community.

You made us a valuable asset that many communities envy.

The number of requests has grown enormously.

Counting on you means we can change lives for the better by caring for people during the worst time of their lives.

Your help, your time and your donation makes this happen.

Thank you for making Halton Hills a rare, special place to live.

Sheila Smith,  
Director of Operations,  
Cancer Assistance Services  
of Halton Hills.

### Letters Policy

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