

Don't complicate pot

It was always clear that many hurdles will have to be jumped before legal marijuana can become a reality in Canada.

Pot advocates won't be too pleased with the latest one. Ottawa, which recently struck a marijuana task force led by former deputy prime minister Anne McLellan, is sending strong signals legalized pot will be so strictly controlled that homegrown weed (even for medical purposes) may remain an illegal substance.

For advocates, this will come as surprising and unwelcome news.

Federal Health Minister Jane Philpott says the government wants to treat pot like tobacco. She may or may not be aware, however, that it is actually legal to grow your own personal-use tobacco in small amounts in Ontario.

Liberal MPP Bill Blair, justifying a heavy-handed approach, told the Toronto Star recently week: Unlike (growing) tomatoes, (marijuana) is a substance that poses significant social and health harms and risks to Canadians the science is overwhelmingly clear that marijuana is not a benign substance.

On that basis, it doesn't exactly sound like something that should be legal, does it?

Except that doctors are prescribing it for glaucoma, anxiety, pain relief, muscle spasms caused by MS, nausea, arthritis discomfort, Crohn's disease and more.

And we all know recreational use is widespread. A 2015 survey showed 20 per cent of Canadians indulge and another 10 per cent will light up once it appears in stores.

A Conservative attempt to prevent medical users from growing their own pot has already been tossed out by the courts. It stands to reason then that preventing non-medical users of a legal substance from growing their own plants could amount to discrimination. Perhaps that is the wrench in the gears.

As we have seen with the emergence of medical pot dispensaries, declaring you are making it legal amounts to letting the horse out of the barn. You will have an industry, you will have people growing their own, for medical uses or not. The notion you can police every user who may have a few plants in a pot at home is absurd. The Liberals seem intent on following through on this promise. It just seems like they forget why they made it in the first place.

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Letters to the editor

A big thanks to emergency personnel

I am writing this letter as a thank you to the people in our community who have chosen to help people in need as their daily profession.

On the night of July 3, my 74-year-old mom had a terrible accident at the front of our house.

I won't get into the details of her injury but it was like nothing I've ever experienced before.

Needless to say it was an extremely intense situation.

First thanks goes to a neighbour called Natalie. She heard the commotion and came running. Luckily for us she is a registered nurse and she assisted as best she could.

Second thanks goes to the two paramedics who showed up and expertly took over.

Their professionalism was reassuring. Unfortunately in the chaos I've for-

gotten their names. Third thanks goes to the staff at Georgetown Hospital ER Nurse Kat, Dr. Wickett and finally Nurse Annalise.

These three staff were amazing and actually had my mom laughing as she was getting stitched up.

To think this happened on a Sunday evening of a long weekend when most of us are off work enjoying friends and family, while these people are waiting on the front lines to deal with these types of things, it's truly a great thing these people do.

We are lucky to have them in our community.

Dave Urion,
Georgetown

Honesty is alive and well in Georgetown

It is comforting to know there are still good, honest people in the

community we live in.

My son was walking home from work one evening and somehow lost his credit card on Mountainview Rd. near Metro.

When he got home he realized it was missing so he called to cancel his card. Within an hour the phone rang.

I jokingly said, "It's probably about your credit card, and I was right."

A good Samaritan found his card and took the time to search out his name to find a contact phone number. She asked me if such a person lived there and what was the initial of his middle name and I told her his middle name to determine proper ownership.

Most people would either ignore or turn the card into the nearest business establishment but this lady went above and beyond to put our mind to rest that the card was found.

Kudos to honest people and thank you to the lady who found my son's credit card.

PoLee Mark-Yee,
Georgetown