

Community must stand united

Halton is home to some of the safest communities in Canada each year we hear this from our local law enforcement officials yet we are not immune to violence, crime, and tragedy just as our community is not without poverty, mental health challenges, hunger and more.

In recent weeks, residents have been learning of numerous deaths in our community.

In early March, a call from a citizen brought police, then the homicide unit, to a luxury condo on Lakeshore Rd. W.

A week later, we learned Angela Skorulski, 56, had lost her life after being shot in her condominium apartment. Who shot her? Why? How did this happen?

All questions still unanswered. In fact, very little is known about Skorulski's death. Police released her photo, but few other details.

Last week, Oakville resident Ferdinand Mejilla (Dr. Fred), who operated a chiropractic office in neighbouring Burlington, died at his clinic of gunshot wounds. His alleged killer, Burlington resident David Williamson, 44, died last weekend of a self-inflicted gunshot wound sustained during the chiropractic office shooting. We do not know what happened.

Two weeks ago, Mississauga's Yusuf Ghanam, 23, went to work at a construction site in Oakville and did not return home. Ontario's Ministry of Labour is investigating the apparent collapse of a wall in relation to his death.

Three people died locally this month who had no reason to die senseless tragedy in our community.

Recently, this space looked at the ongoing fight against human trafficking, another blight on public safety and human dignity that is reportedly a significant issue locally.

What can we do? Lots. We can be vigilant for our friends, neighbours and families.

We can use the many local resources that exist to help in all types of struggles.

We can push for change for the better at the political level. We can keep eyes and ears open through our daily lives, to do our part in keeping our community, people, safe.

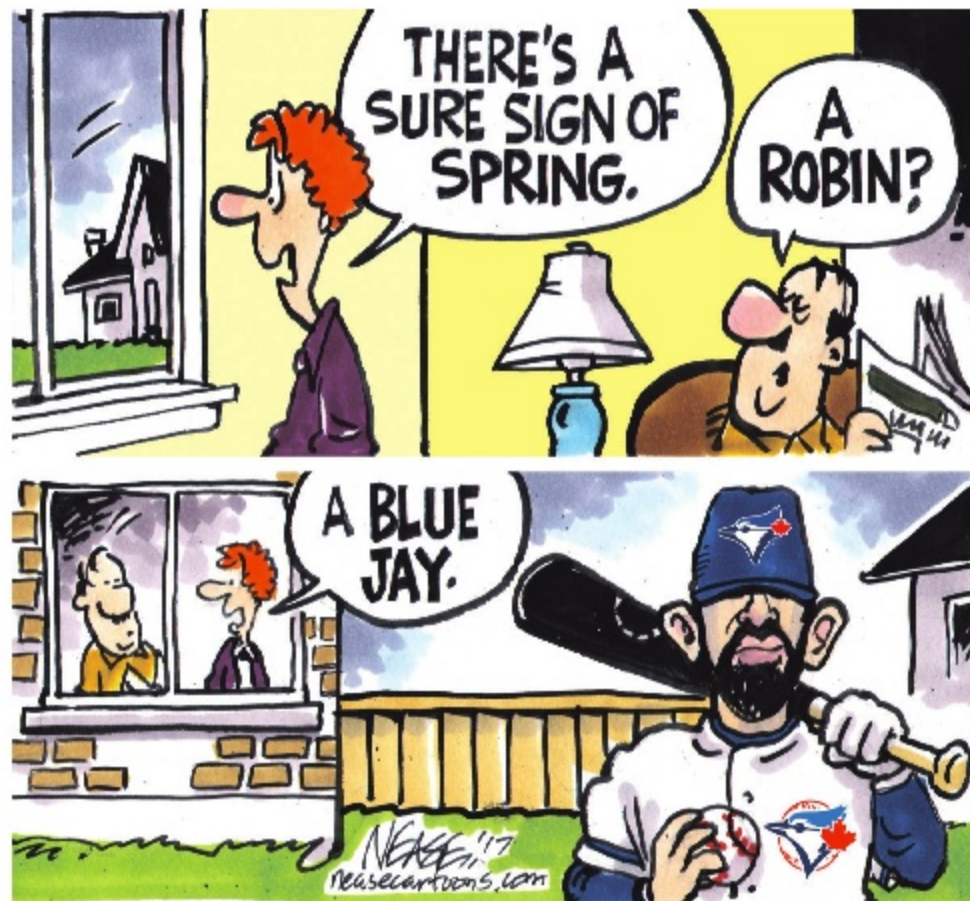
And remember, most often it's the community that helps solve crime... that's the success story of Crime Stoppers.

Tips can be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), through the web at www.halton-crimestoppers.ca, or by texting Tip201 with a message to 274637 (crimes).

The Independent & Free Press

The Independent & Free Press is published Thursday and is one of several Metroland Media Group Ltd. community newspapers. Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited. The Independent & Free Press is a member of the Ontario Press Council, which is an independent ethical organization established to deal with editorial concerns. For additional information or to file a complaint, contact info@ontpress.com or call 416-340-1981.

OPC Ontario Press Council
Defending principles to inspire public trust



GEORGETOWN - ACTON
The Independent
A FREE PRESS

905-873-0301
Publisher: Neil Oliver
General manager: Steve Foreman
 (sforeman@theifp.ca, 905-234-1011)
Retail advertising manager: Cindi Campbell
 (ccampbell@theifp.ca, 905-234-1012)
Managing editor: Chris Vernon
 (cvernon@metroland.com, 905-234-1020)
Distribution: Louliana Polar
 (lpolar@miltoncanadianchampion.com, 1-866-838-8960)
Classifieds/Real Estate
 Kristie Pells
 (realestate@theifp.ca, 905-234-1016)
Advertising Sales
 Jenny Hawkins
 (jhawkins@theifp.ca, 905-234-1014)
 Jennifer Spencer
 (jspencer@theifp.ca, 905-234-1013)
 Rachael Scutt
 (rscutt@theifp.ca, 905-234-1015)
 Kelli Kosonic
 (kkosonic@theifp.ca, 905-234-1018)
Classified Call Centre
 1-800-263-6480, Fax 1-866-299-1499
 classifieds@metroland.com
Accounting: 1-866-773-6575

Editorial
 Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/photographer
 (emaher@theifp.ca, 905-234-1023)
 Kathryn Boyle: Staff writer/photographer
 (kboyle@theifp.ca, 905-234-1022)
 Graeme Frisque: Staff writer/photographer
 (gfrisque@metroland.com, 905-234-1022)
Production
 Shelli Harrison (sharrison@theifp.ca 905-234-1017)
Sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter.
 Go to www.theifp.ca and click on **Newsletter sign-up** at the bottom of the homepage.

Letters to the editor

Kudos to Halton police

My husband went for a walk just before 9 a.m. on Thursday morning (March 30, 2017) two hours later he still had not returned.

As this is very out of character for him I called the Halton Regional Police.

They took the case seriously and immediately organized a search and rescue operation complete with a command vehicle, extra officers from Oakville and the Canine Unit.

A very kind officer stayed with me the entire time, as friends at Cote Terrace came and went with food, prayers and well wishes.

Just before 4 p.m. we received word that the police found Al safe and sound.

He had become disoriented after falling in the woods behind the fairgrounds and couldn't find his way out he was lost and wandering for seven hours.

The police found him just as the snow started and within hours, we had a freezing rain event.

The swift actions of the Halton Police certainly led to our happy ending.

Thank you to all of our friends, family and the Living Hope Alliance Church

for your gathering around me with your support and prayers.

Thank you also for getting out there to search for Al and for sharing the information on your social media feeds.

Your supportive comments and personal messages online really helped and made me feel loved and supported.

He was chilled, tired, achy and suffering from shock, but at least he is now home safe with his family who love him.

Bless each one of you.

Diane and Allan Miller

Human Rights Code needs overhaul

The recent protests over self-selected Muslim prayers being allowed in secular public schools, points to an unintended result of misguided clauses in the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffrey is incorrect when she states that it mandates religious accommodation.

In fact, it states that religions have the right to apply for appropriate accommodation.

The Muslim community has been very successful in getting its appropriate accommodation in many other areas:

such as asking for separate swimming times for its women because they are afraid of men looking at their bodies.

The Internet indicates that there are over 4,000 religions in the world, yet only one has requested accommodation for its students to pray on public property.

Now, would it not be an interesting situation for school boards to deal with if another dozen religions suddenly started demanding the same accommodation as well?

That would likely turn into a nightmare for school boards to deal with.

Time to amend the Ontario Human Rights code I would say.

Joe Andely

The IFP welcomes Letters to the Editor on topics of interest to readers. All letters must be signed with a first and last name or first initial and last name, and include an address and daytime phone number for verification. The Editor reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit letters for length and libelous statements.
 email to cvernon@metroland.com